September

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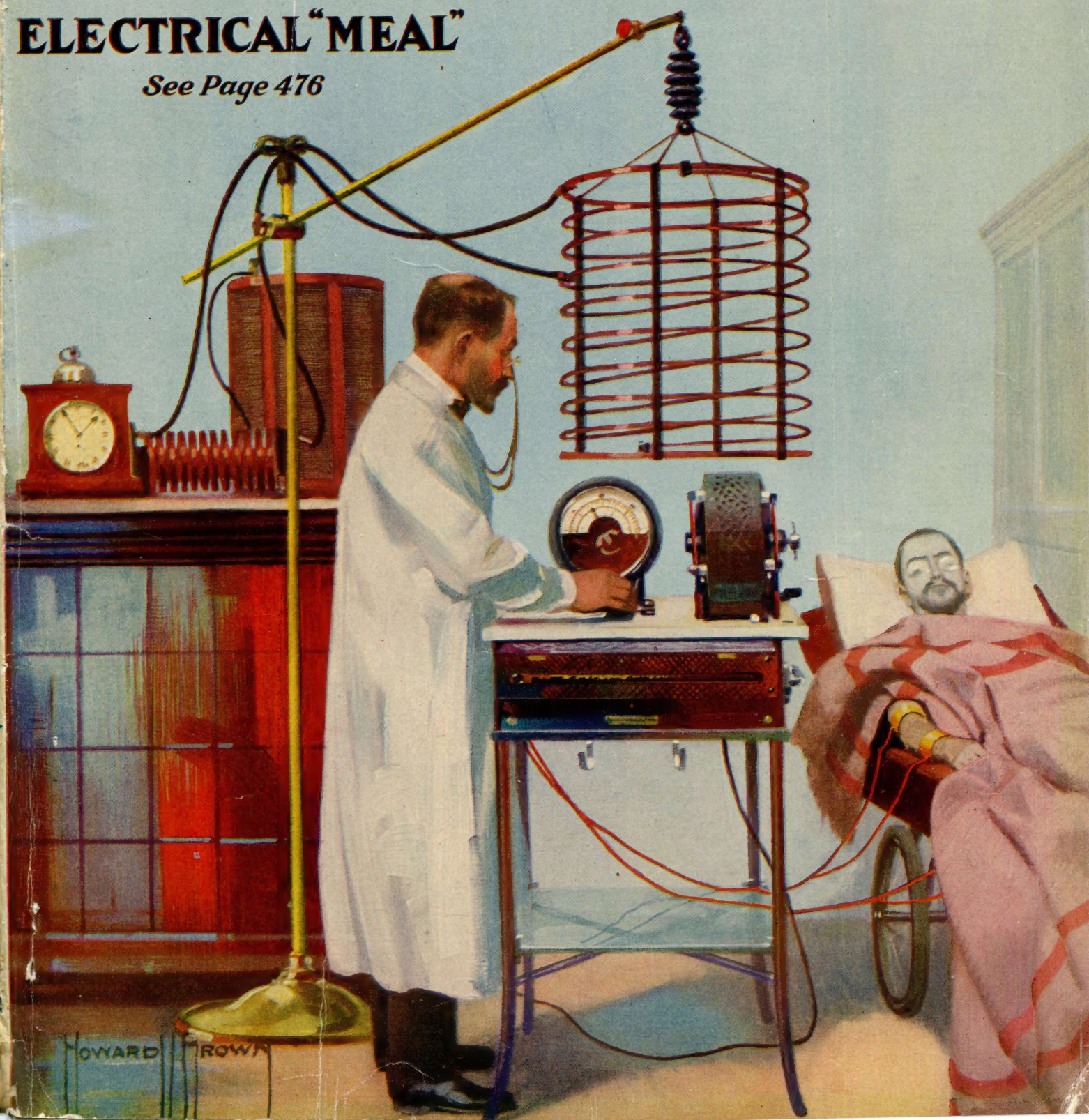
Science and Invention

FORMERLY

ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER

THE ELECTRICAL "MEAL"

See Page 476



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Vol. VIII
Whole No. 89

Science and Invention

FORMERLY
ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER
233 FULTON STREET-NEW YORK

September, 1920
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Artificial Diamonds

THE diamond as is well known is a crystallized form of pure carbon. The diamond is not acted upon by the strongest acids or alkalies exactly like carbon. If heated to a high temperature in the presence of oxygen it burns, as does ordinary carbon.

Ever since it became known that the diamond is carbon, chemists and physicists have labored incessantly to produce this precious stone artificially—synthetically in other words. Many precious stones have been actually thus produced, as for instance the ruby, the emerald and the saffire, but as for the diamond, it has so far baffled all our most able researchers.

We might state here that these men who labor so incessantly to produce the diamond realize full well, that the minute the discovery is made, the diamond market will be demoralized, just as happened when artificial rubies were made first. Today not even a jeweler can tell a real ruby from a synthetic one, altho the real one might have cost $5,000, while the artificial one can be had at $10. The same thing will happen in the near future to the diamond—you can be sure of that. What then? Will we continue to adorn ourselves with diamonds? Perhaps. But the greater and larger field will be found for industrial purposes. On account of their remarkable hardness diamonds are used for rock-drilling, glass cutting, wire drawing and hundreds of other uses, far more important than for personal adornment.

Let us now see what has been done to produce the diamond synthetically. Perhaps the greatest authority on the subject is the Frenchman Moissan, who actually produced microscopic diamonds by means of tremendous pressures. Graphite—a pure form of carbon—is usually subjected to extraordinary high pressures running all the way up to 15,000 atmospheres and higher. While under such compression the graphite is treated by means of electric currents as well as high temperatures. Thus Sir Charles A. Parsons used a 200-ton hydraulic press and a current from a storage battery that gave 80,000 amperes! But no diamonds were produced. In some of his experiments Sir Charles actually succeeded in *melting* graphite six times over, but the only result was a slight alteration in the structure of the graphite.

Having found that pressures by means of the hydraulic press had their limitations, Parsons then set about to obtain very much higher pressures on graphite than had ever been thought possible. He simply fired a rifle or gun bullet into a tapered hole drilled into a block of steel. At the bottom of the hole was a small quantity of graphite. By firing a steel bullet into such a hole the net pressure on the graphite was calculated to be 2,000 tons per square inch! So tremendous is such a pressure that the bottom of the hole was enlarged to almost twice its original size! But still the graphite did not change.

Substituting a tungsten steel block tempered glass hard and firing a bullet into a tapered hole by means of a high powered rifle, pressures as high as 5,000 tons per inch were recorded—but still the graphite refused to become a diamond.

It is of high interest to note that Stanley Cook calculated that during such experiments the final pressure must be at least 15,000 atmospheres, while a temperature (caused by the tremendous pressure) of between 15,250° and 17,700° Centigrade must have been reached. In other words, a temperature—tho momentary, of course—as high as that which prevails in the sun!

H. GERNSBACK.

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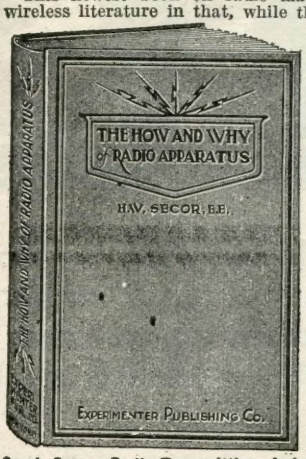

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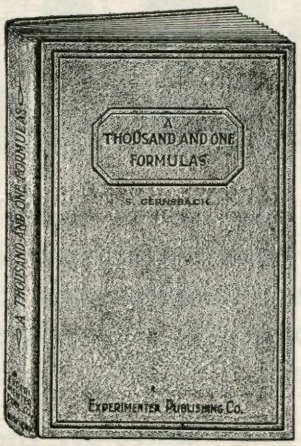

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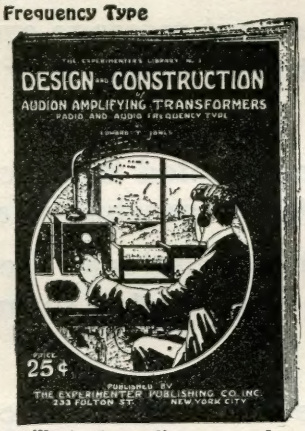
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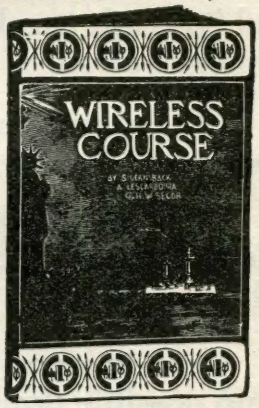

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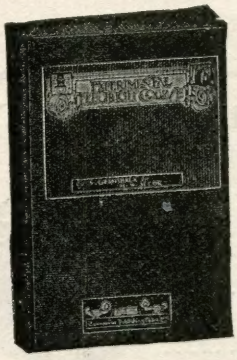

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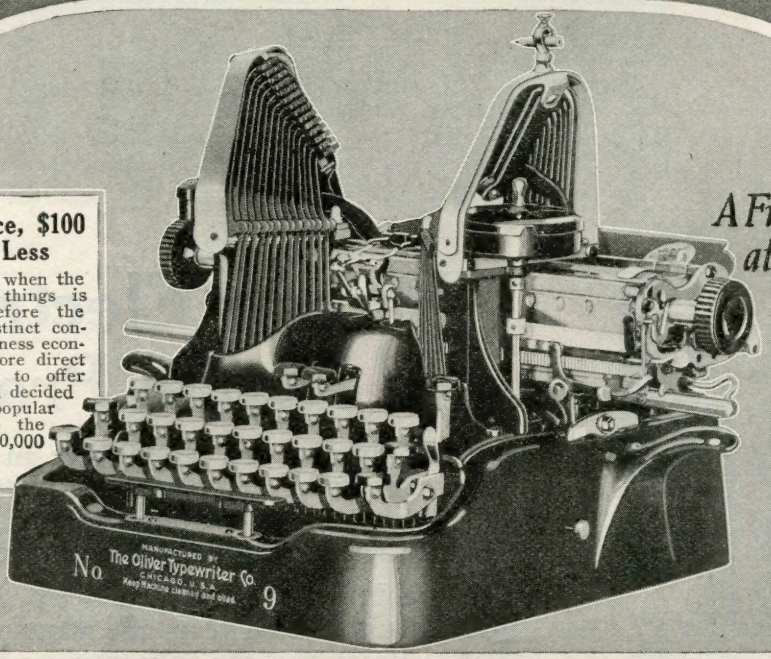

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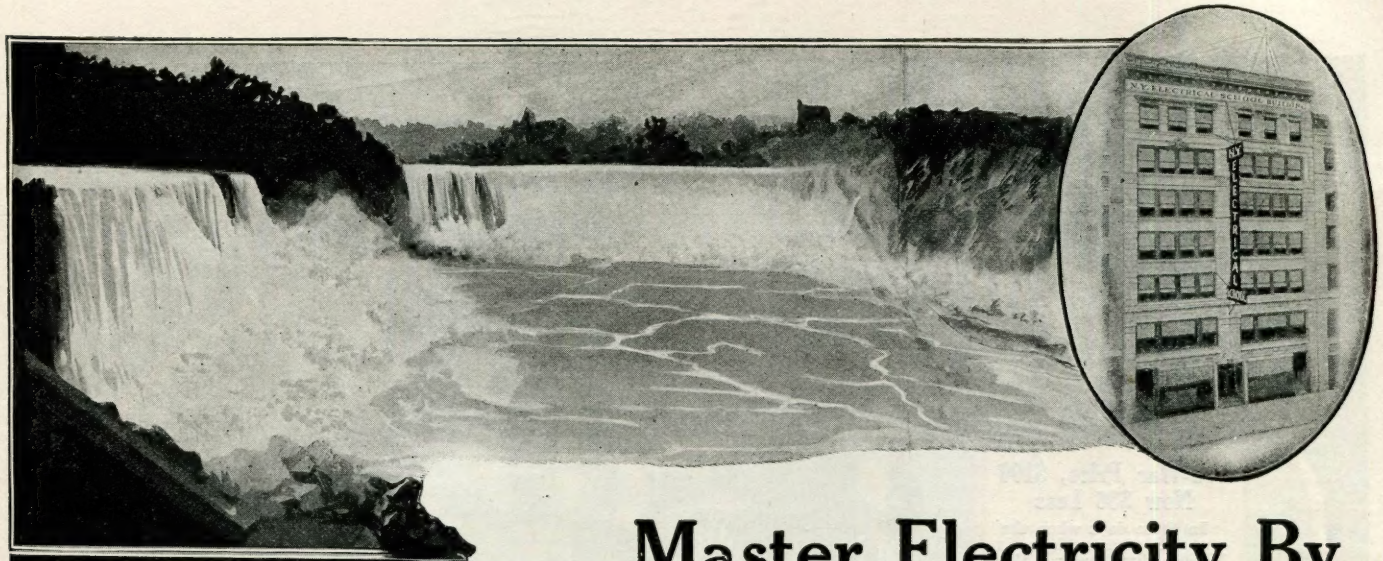

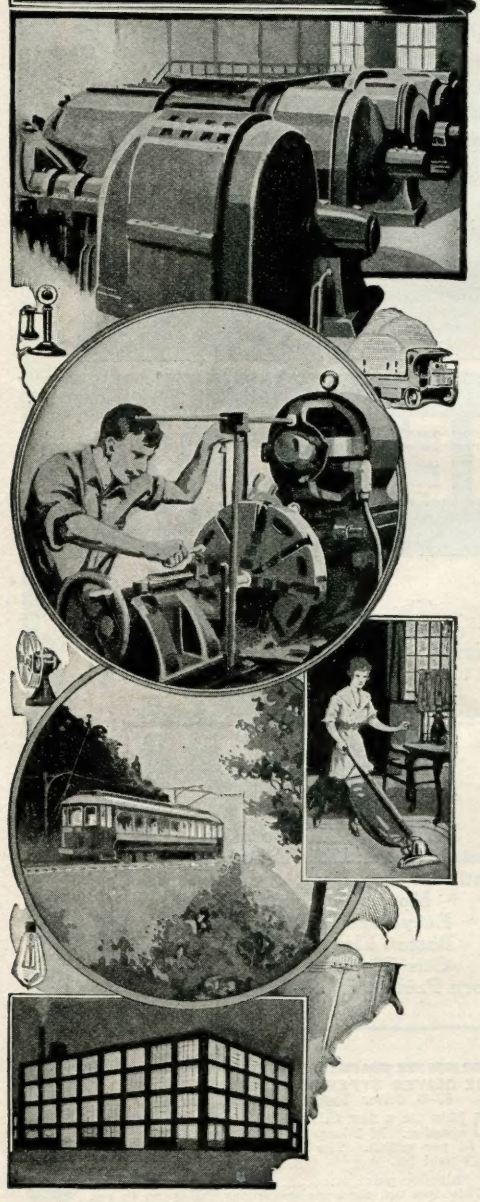

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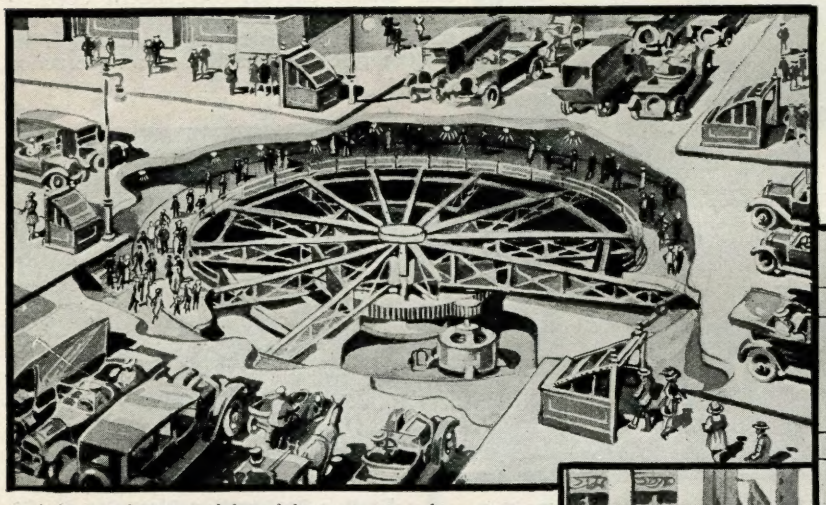
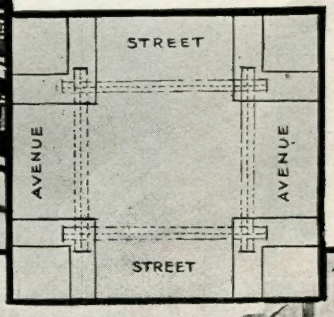
Moving Platforms for Street Crossings

By EDWIN F. LINDER, M. E.

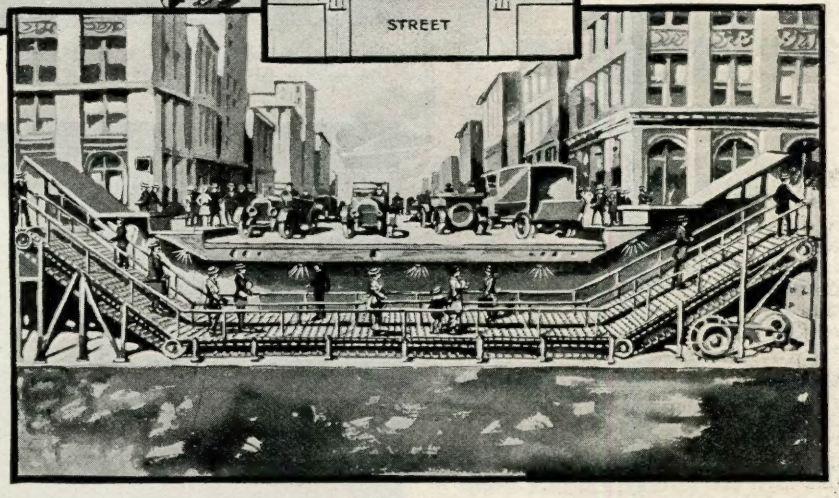
NOT so many years ago, when the country folks visited the city, they would stand at the curb of the sidewalk and patiently wait for a chance to cross to the other side of the street. The city people would glance at the confused expressions on the faces of these country cousins and dart in and out among the cabs, trucks and horse-cars and leave the astonisht visitors to wonder how so many reckless persons were able to run across the streets at will, without being trampled under hoof or ground to death under the thousands of fast spinning wheels.



Left: Why Not Use a Rotary Turntable For Street Cross-Overs at Busy Traffic Centers in the Larger Cities, Like New York, Chicago or Philadelphia? Mr. Linder Tells All About It in the Accompanying Article.



View Below: This Illustrates a Second Idea For Moving Platforms Under Busy Street Cross-Overs. Two Platforms Move in Opposite Directions Between Every Two Corners. See Plan at Left.



The ever-increasing number of automobiles operated in the large cities has necessitated the building of a police corps of traffic experts to regulate the movements of the pedestrians as well as that of the vehicles. Much valuable time is lost at present by the halting of one and then the other at centers of congestion. To aid in keeping the movements of the rolling stock and also the steady stream of those on foot more uniform, it is suggested that moving platforms, electrically operated, be installed to carry the pedestrians from one side of the street to the other.

One scheme is to have the entrances to these underground conveyors located at a distance of about thirty feet from the street corners, from whence an inclined moving platform carries the people below the street and across to another incline operating upward to an exit similarly situated on the opposite side. This type of conveyor would serve most efficiently by the construction of eight moving endless chain platforms, placed in pairs, each working in opposite directions. The four street corners are thus connected by these sub-surface passages and as the platforms are kept in motion continuously by the electric motors which drive them, it is obvious that there need be no delay in getting quickly to the other side of the crossing. At the same time, the discontinuance of the use of the ground level as a means of crossing by pedestrians gives a much freer scope to the movements of motor-driven conveyances. In some cases, for the better distribution of the people, it might be suitable to install a set of moving platforms in the center of the blocks either at right angles to the street or possibly sometimes diagonally, should the crossing be narrow and requiring greater length to accommodate the necessary inclines.

Another idea for the purpose of accomplishing the same end is the erection of an underground "Merry-go-round." A large circular platform rotates about a center post which is geared to the driving mechanism and connected to an electric motor. This rotary platform is reached from the sidewalks either by stairways or moving inclines such as described before. The outer edge of the platform travels close to the corner stations and thus the person using it steps aboard at once on reaching the lower level. Conspicuous signs electrically illuminated designate the *Avenue* and *Street* in the same manner as on the surface overhead and as the rider arrives at the corner desired a step from the platform brings him to the exit used to ascend to the surface.

At first it may seem like going to a great deal of trouble and expense to make installations of this kind. Some may even think that ordinary passages built underneath the street surface reached by the usual stairways plenty good enough. Why all these electrically controlled mechanisms?

The answer is that the latter serve as the stern and strict regulators of the moving masses. In both schemes suggested the people are kept moving along in certain definite directions, being transported at all times safely and rapidly without delay to their proper destinations.

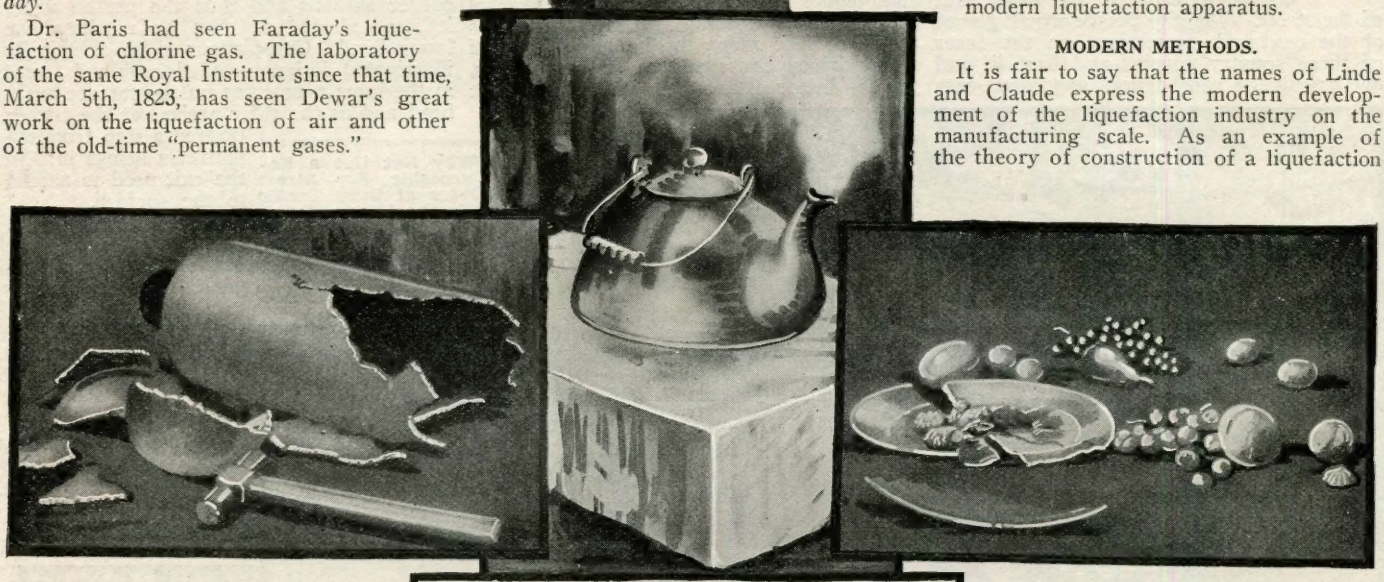
Liquid Air

By PROF. T. O'CONOR SLOANE, Ph.D.

DR. JOHN AYRTON PARIS, the biographer of Sir Humphrey Davy, had been invited to the great scientist's house to meet the Rev. Uriah Tonkin. On his way he past the Royal Institute and dropt in to see what was going on in the laboratory. There he found Faraday engaged on an experiment with chlorine hydrate. Dr. Paris noticed some oily drops in the compression tube and intimated that the young experimenter should exercise more care in keeping his apparatus clean. Going on to his dinner, not realizing that he had been talking to one of the world's greatest genius', he mentioned the oily drops, which he had noticed, to his host. The latter looked thoughtful and said he would inquire into the experiment the next day. Early the next morning Dr. Paris received the historic note: *"Dear Sir: The oil you noticed yesterday turns out to be liquid chlorine. Yours faithfully, Michael Faraday."*

Dr. Paris had seen Faraday's liquefaction of chlorine gas. The laboratory of the same Royal Institute since that time, March 5th, 1823, has seen Dewar's great work on the liquefaction of air and other of the old-time "permanent gases."

This Daring Experimenter Is Taking Liquid Air Into His Mouth.



An Iron Flask Cooled By Liquid Air Can Be Broken As Easily As a Glass Bottle.

Ice Is Hot Compared to Liquid Air. To Boil the Liquid Air in the Tea-Kettle, Put It On a Cake of Ice.

Fruit, a Beefsteak, a Plate Can All Be Broken Like Glass After Immersion in Liquid Air. Don't keep Your Finger in It For Any Length of Time.

EARLY EXPERIMENTS.

A liquid, evaporating, produces cold. If the finger is moistened with water, and is exposed to the air it feels a chill, which is intensified by blowing against it. Prof. Dewar prepared quantities of liquid nitrous oxide and of liquid ethylene. By passing the latter thru pipes surrounded by evaporating nitrous oxide it was chilled to a very low temperature—130° F. The evaporation of the cold ethylene gave a temperature of—229° F. Air at a pressure of 50 atmospheres past thru a tube surrounded by the ethylene was liquefied in quantity. But on drawing it off from this high pressure system nine-tenths of it was lost. Dewar's work was the legitimate following out of Faraday's researches, and was made possible by the expenditure of the great resources of the Institute.

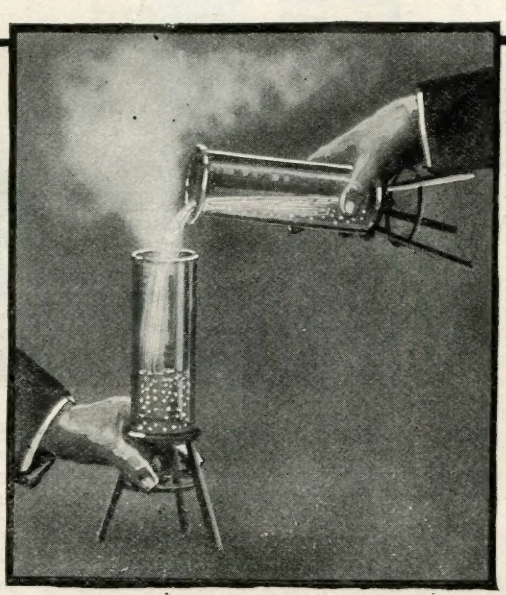
The modern methods of liquefying air use no other gas than the air itself. It is comprest and allowed to expand and in its expansion cools another portion of air previously comprest. This in its expansion cools more air to a still greater degree and the cumulative action goes on until liquid air runs off in large quantities. In the early days the production of enough liquid air to be seen as it lay in a minute quantity in a glass recipient was a triumph of science: now it is liquefied by the ton and can be poured from buckets like water, and can be shipt in barrels and milk cans.

In the above the existence of steps in the operation are indicated, but it is perfectly clear that a uniform progression of cooling and compression could be made to give the same result, and this is done in some apparatus, perhaps in most of the modern ones. But now we come to a very important thing in the phenomena of gases. If air is comprest and then expanded, a reduction of temperature occurs. If air were a perfect gas the change of temperature due to expansion would be exactly equal to that produced by the same degree of compression: But this is not the case; the expanded air is slightly cooler than it ought to be. This phase plays an important part in modern liquefaction apparatus.

MODERN METHODS.

It is fair to say that the names of Linde and Claude express the modern development of the liquefaction industry on the manufacturing scale. As an example of the theory of construction of a liquefaction apparatus, Georges Claude's method is cited. Air is pumped into the apparatus thru a pipe cooled by the escaping air which has been cooled by expansion. The comprest air does more than merely expand; it is made to drive an air engine. This gives back some of the power which would otherwise be lost and also localizes and intensifies the cooling effect of the expansion. There is a regeneration of the cold as the expanded air escapes; the entering comprest air is cooled more and more as the operation continues, until presently *liquid air* begins to accumulate in the receptacle. This is of course the merest outline of a description; there may be a number of the air engines in the same machine, but the apparatus is wonderfully compact.

Claude worked at the problem of making liquid air in quantity sufficient for the economical manufacture of oxygen gas on a commercial scale. He never dreamt that the inert and supposedly useless nitrogen, "the ashes of air" as it has been aptly called, was eventually to be the valuable product. For in the



Liquid Air Is Poured About Like Water—It Boils a Little But Will Not Scald You As It Is Colder Than Ice.

fixation of nitrogen, involving the production of fertilizer chemicals and other compounds, pure nitrogen is an essential, and this is most economically produced by liquefaction of air. The oxygen being more easily liquefied is almost perfectly separated from air, the four-fifths of the air is collected as pure nitrogen, and the life-giving oxygen, the supporter of combustion, without which all life on our planet would cease in a few moments, appears as a side product.

As soon as liquid air was produced in any quantity the problem of how to keep it arose; it was assumed that it would evaporate rapidly from any ordinary receptacle. Dewar, acting on an old device of d'Arsonval, constructed most ingenious vessels; these consisted of two concentric glass bulbs or flasks, with a vacuous space between them. This prevented the heating of the inner vessel by the atmosphere and convection. To make the insulating effect still greater the outer side of the inner vessel was sometimes silverplated, or a drop of mercury was introduced into the vacuous space. This deposited a mirror of mercury on the inner vessel. The effect of these metallic depositions was to reflect any heat, thereby making the insulating quality of the bulb still greater.

"KEEPING" LIQUID AIR.

While Dewar was thus obtaining valuable results in the preservation of the elusive fluid, an American inventor, Charles E. Tripler of New York, had succeeded in making liquid air in large quantities and, without presumably reasoning out the why or wherefore of it, had carried it about in buckets, and had shipt it to distant points in tin cans wrapt in felt. It was found, that while it would evaporate and in doing so became richer in oxygen, yet, in large receptacles especially, it would "keep" for an astonishingly long time. It is fair to say that this fact could not well have been anticipated. The reason for it is not far

At Right: Liquid Air Is Poured Over the Bare Hand. It Does Not Touch it—If It Did the Result Would Be Disastrous.

Above: Liquid Air Is Poured Into Water. At First the Globules Float, But as the Nitrogen Evaporates They Become Heavier and Eventually Sink.

A Metal Ball Has Been Cooled in Liquid Air. Placed in the Flame of a Bunsen Burner It Freezes the Carbon Dioxide and Produces Carbonic Acid "Snow."

Below: A Lead Wire After Immersion in Liquid Air Is Very Elastic and Strong. By Blowing On It You Warm It and It Looses Its Elasticity and Straightens Out.

Above: Mercury Frozen in a Test Tube of Liquid Air Can Be Used to Drive a Nail. Grapes Became Hard As Marbles and When Shot From a Gun, Will Penetrate a Pine Board.

Above: A Coil of Special Wire Is in Circuit With a Current Meter; the Coil Is Immersed in the Liquid Air. The Current Increases As the Temperature Is Lowered, and the Reading Gives the Temperature.

to seek; it is due to the assumption of the *spheroidal state,* so called, by the liquid.

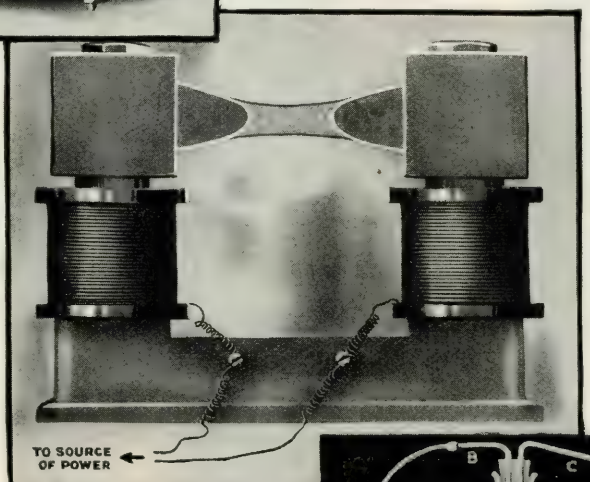
If water is dropt on a moderately hot plate of iron or other material it will boil. But let the plate be red hot; the water will gather itself into a little spheroid or flattened ball, and will evaporate with extreme slowness. A few drops of water in a hot spoon may be made to illustrate the spheroidal state, as it is termed, on account of the shape taken by the fluid. A drop of water on a red hot cover plate of a cooking stove shows it; the laundry maid tries the heat of her flat iron by touching it with her moist finger; if the iron is sufficiently hot the water will be repelled and will not wet the iron nor boil. A sort of cushion of steam forms between the water and the hot surface, which prevents contact, so that the fluid is only slowly heated. If the heat is insufficient to form this cushion, the liquid will come into contact with the hot surface and will boil violently.

In the case of liquid air all other objects exposed to the atmosphere are hot compared to it, and if it is brought for an instant into contact with such a surface, it assumes the spheroidal state, and rests quietly on a layer of gas produced from itself. The surrounding atmosphere acts like a furnace and keeps the receptacle hot, at least hot with reference to the temperature of the liquid air within the vessel.

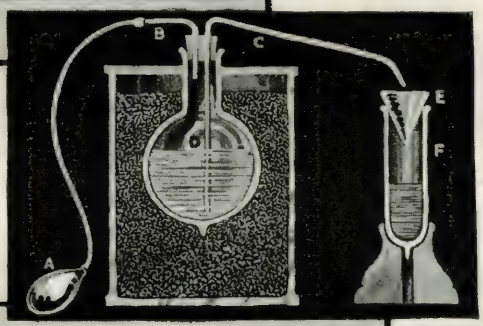
SURPRISING EXPERIMENTS

Liquid air can be poured over the hand without injury, and the hand may be dipt into it without harm *if not left in too long.* A frightful freezing effect would result from more than the shortest immersion, because the moment the hand became cold the liquid air would touch it and the hand would be frozen thru and thru instantly.

The double flasks or bulbs used with liquid air may have various shapes. The inner flask is made of very thin glass, and is fused to the outer one at the upper end or opening of the neck. The inner vessel is therefore very fragile and the weld or joining at the neck is liable to crack when liquid air comes in contact with it. If such a flask is filled with the fluid it is evident that a considerable side strain will come upon it in pouring, as the inner flask is only held in position by the joint at the neck. The thermos bottle is made on the same lines, and many of us have had experience in the breaking of these convenient picnic accessories. How to avoid the danger of thus breaking the inner vessel is shown in one of the illustrations. Air is forced in thru a tube and the liquid flows out by the other tube into any desired receptacle. Both tubes pass thru holes in a cork which tightly fits the mouth of the flask. This saves all strain and exposure of the glass weld at the neck to differences and change of temperature.



At Left: A Quantity of Liquid Air Is Supported Between the Poles of a Powerful Electro-Magnet. It Is the Oxygen That Does It.



At Right: The Bulb, A, Forces Air Into the Dewar Flask, D, Thru the Tube, B; the Liquid Air Is Forced Out Thru the Tube C, and Is Filtered Thru the Filter Paper, E, into the d'Arsonval Tube, F. Do Not Leave the Rubber Cork in the Neck of the Dewar Flask or It Will Get as Hard as Stone.

Dewar Glass Flasks With Double and Triple Walls For Holding Liquid Air.

LIQUID HYDROGEN

Liquid hydrogen is of much lower temperature than that of liquid air. It can manufacture its own Dewar container. For if there is no vacuum between the two concentric flasks, the intense cold of the hydrogen soon makes one by freezing the air in the space. It would be perfectly easy to carry out this idea for liquid air by filling the space with the vapor of some readily frozen substance—even carbon dioxide might answer. But there is this difficulty about it: the carbon dioxide is almost sure to contain enough air to seriously impair a vacuum so produced. The inner vessel in the Dewar flasks is made extremely thin.

At low temperatures charcoal absorbs air and other gases with great avidity. A double walled vessel such as shown in the illustration is provided with a tube projecting into the inner vessel. Some charcoal is placed in the tube and the annular space is pretty thoroly exhausted. If liquid air is put into the inner vessel it chills the charcoal which absorbs completely the last traces of air in the outer space and a Dewar flask results. Claude proposed to make such recipients of metal. This however is very brittle when at such temperature, so there would be a chance of breakage after all.

It has been aptly said that a piece of iron or other metal cooled to the temperature of liquid air is more dangerous than liquid air itself. This is because there can be no spheroidal state for the metal to protect anyone touching it, it would at once produce a so-called "burn."

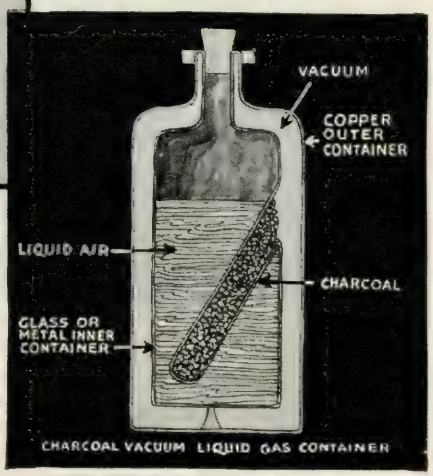
If cotton or some other organic substances are saturated with it a powerful explosive is produced. This can be detonated readily and used for blasting. The explosive must be used as soon as made, because the air evaporates rapidly leaving it inert. But this is a great element of safety, as if a cartridge fails to explode an hour or less of delay makes it innocuous. Many accidents occur in blasting operations by the explosion of such cartridges when loaded with permanent explosives.

But at the present time the all important use of liquid air is for the production of nitrogen and oxygen. The latter gas is acquiring increased importance for cutting iron and steel in the acetylene or blau gas blowpipe, and it is impossible to foresee how far the fixation of nitrogen may be carried, requiring enormous quantities of nitrogen.

In the line of scientific investigation the

(*Continued on page 528*)

Below: A Flask for Holding Liquid Air Using a Vacuum Produced By the Wonderful Absorbing Qualities of Charcoal.



Plant or Animal—Which?

On the Border Line Between the Animal and Vegetable Kingdoms

By WILLIAM M. BUTTERFIELD

THE border line between the animal and vegetable kingdoms has for the past fifty years been placed among a rather unsatisfactory group of minute organisms that may be clast in the vegetable groups, and under the animal groups. These forms are supposed to be the lowest expression of life, as it is very reasonable to believe they are.

And altho a vast amount of work is being accomplisht, both professionally and by the enthusiastic, hard-working amateur, yet it more often than otherwise raises a question in the minds of students as to what constitutes the difference *between an ANIMAL and a PLANT*, as each are found represented by these simple yet puzzling forms.

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This Plate Shows Actual Development of an Animal Into a Plant of the Kind From Which the Animal Was Originally Evolved.

1. Swarm-Cell Escaping From Seed-Case.

2. Young Swarm-Cell with Nucleus and Three Cavities.

3. Swarm-Cell with Its Whip-Tail.

4. Swarm-Cell Swimming with the Aid of Whip-Tail and Producing a Filament at Rear End, by Which Aid It Captures Swimming Bacteria For Food.

5. The Process of Double Partition by Which a Single Swarm-Cell Becomes Two Individuals; Perfect Swarm-Cells.

6. Lowest Animal Swarm-Cell Ready to Join with Others in Forming Jelly-Like Mass.

7. Jelly Mass Composed of Many Animal Swarm-Cells Creeping and Feeding as a Single Organism. (bb) Animal Cells Budding in Diminutive Pouches.

8. Concentrating Jelly Mass Before the Individuals at Last Divide Into Centers, From Which the Plants Develop.

9. Individuals Forming Centers.

10. The Plants Developing.

11-17. Various Plant Specimens, All of Which Were in an Animal State Previously.

A British museum publication appeared about a dozen years ago describing the life histories of a few members in a group of fungoid plants, and portrayed them as organisms which are at one stage of their lives *animal;* and at another, *plant!* The study of the group has since become popular with microscope workers both in this country and abroad, probably because the problems referred to above seem solved by these easily obtained and observed groups.

Considered for a long time a doubtful member of the fungi, to which the mushroom and puff-ball belong, the plant part was alone studied, without any consideration of the true life-history. The plant, ranging in size from 1/64 to ⅛ of an inch in height, resembles for the most part, tiny puff-balls or similar fungi, and is found inhabiting dead wood bark, grass or dead leaves. The chief interest to-day is in the portion of the life spent as an animal, and the portion where it changes into the plant. These conditions and changes are easily observed by anyone using a microscope and are about as follows:

After a period of immersion in the water of a pool or pond, the *swarm-cells* emerge from the spores as amoeboid bodies (the lowest form of animal) (see plate of drawings, figures 1 to 10); they soon acquire a long whip-like end and creep in a linear form with this whip extended in advance, or swim in the surrounding water with a dancing motion occasioned by the lashing movement of the whip-tail. Each possess a single nucleus placed immediately behind and connected with the whip-tail and a pulsating cavity.

To a large extent the swarm-cells feed on bacteria which are caught by a filament projected from the hind end of the body. The bacteria are conveyed into the body substance where they are digested in cavities which form around them; there may be one or more such digestive cavities, each containing several bacteria at one time.

The swarm-cells rapidly increase in numbers by dividing into two parts. When this occurs the whip-tail is first withdrawn and the swarm-cell assumes a globular form. Meanwhile the nucleus is passing thru the process of division, and in the course of a few minutes the halves of the nucleus separate and retreat to the opposite ends of the constricted cell, which now divides into two; each segment soon acquires a whip-tail and resumes the former active state.

A few days after the germination of the spores, the process of dividing into two parts, by which the number of swarm-cells has greatly increased, ceases. The majority of swarm-cells now withdraw the

(*Continued on page* 538)

Electrical "Meals"

By JACQUES BOYER

PARIS CORRESPONDENT "SCIENCE AND INVENTION"

HERE is indeed a unique remedy to combat the high cost of living. To replace meats and other victuals which are at present almost out of reach, by means of the electric fluid—which by the way is a menu worthy of Hapagon—is the method very seriously proposed to us by Professor Bergonié, of the Bordeaux Faculty of Sciences.

As the result of numerous methodically conducted experiments, this scientist has demonstrated, in effect, that it is possible to partially sustain the human body by means of electricity served in the form of low as well as high frequency currents. It is, of course, understood that these "repasts" are of a nature designed to relieve a suffering organism by furnishing it, in a natural way, with a complement of heat indispensable to its existence. Such medication in truth cannot replace all nourishment, for cellular life must draw necessary energy from various foods having very complex chemical compositions, which the blood makes use of thru the intermediary of the digestive tract.

Lefevre has estimated that for a normal man the equivalent of 1,500 calories for each twenty-four hours is the minimum alimentation necessary to sustain and properly function normal activities.

In order to make this heat penetrate into the organism M. Bergonié makes use of the diathermic method accredited to d'Arsonval. By means of the Nagelschmidt apparatus, in addition to a Telefunken spark gap which may be seen on the table illustrated in our photograph and which is a method described in all physiotherapeutic treatises, currents of high frequency are thus produced. By referring to the same photograph the ampere-meter in front of the scientist's hand indicates that the proper electrical intensities of from 2 to 3 amperes traverse without harm the relaxed body of the subject stretched out on the long chair. With a potential difference varying between 150 to 2,500 volts, the patient receives in the neighborhood of 3,000 calories every hour; that is to say, in addition to his daily organic ration. The electric current enters into his body thru the metallic electrodes, which may consist of lead, tin or thin sheets of aluminum, and which are placed in good contact with the arms and legs. These are firmly adjusted by means of adhesive tape and sometimes the sharp edges of the electrodes are insulated by means of wide bands of tape.

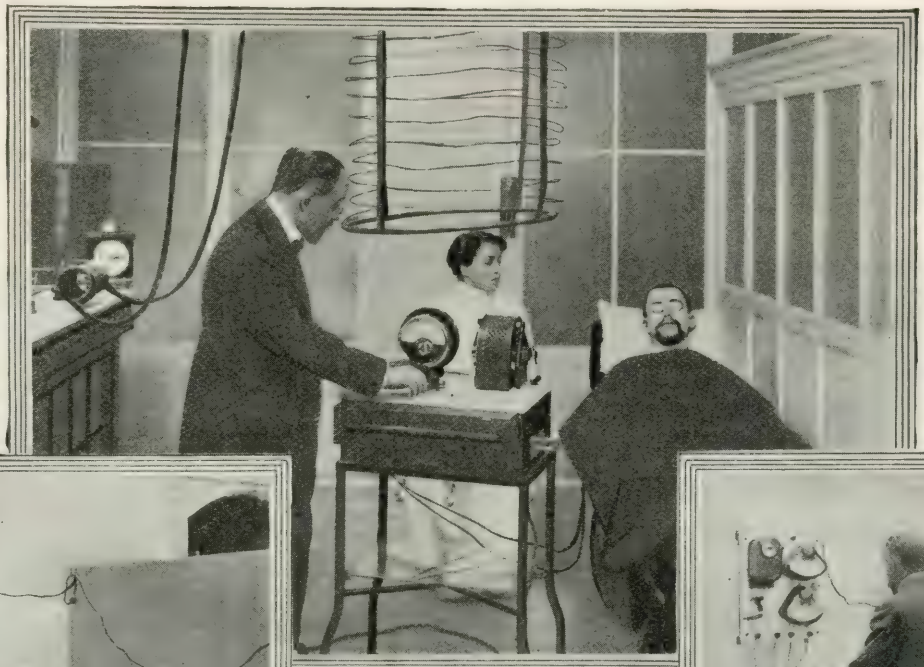
In a general diathermic application having for its object nutrition by means of heat, the electrodes are distributed to the number of 6 for each pole in the following manner: Three on the limbs of the left side for the one pole and 3 on the limbs of the right side for the other pole. An example permitting the appreciation of the marvelous results obtained by Mr. Bergonié is perhaps not out of place.

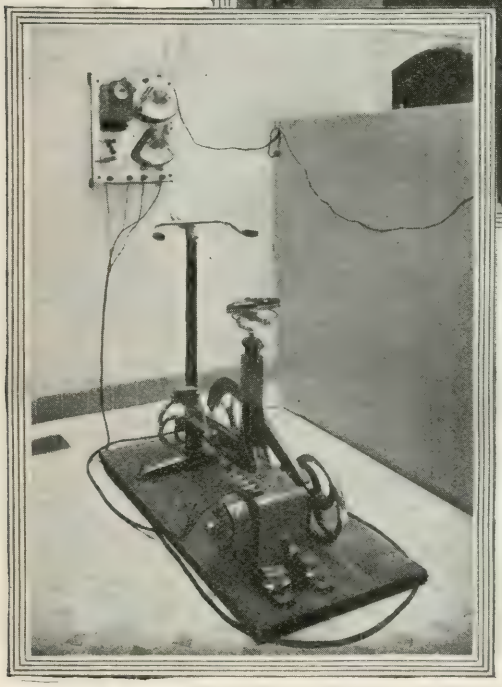
A subject very much weakened by chronic *enteritis* was absolutely unable to walk 100 meters without assistance and in addition to being incapable of any physical or intellectual work had become considerably emaciated, his weight having been reduced to 49½ kilograms. Under the influence of high frequency currents for a period of 35 days, giving the patient two treatments each day, this man, at the end of the treatments, regained the normal weight of 63.2 kilograms. He was able to walk for many hours without fatigue and had regained a really remarkable bodily vigor.

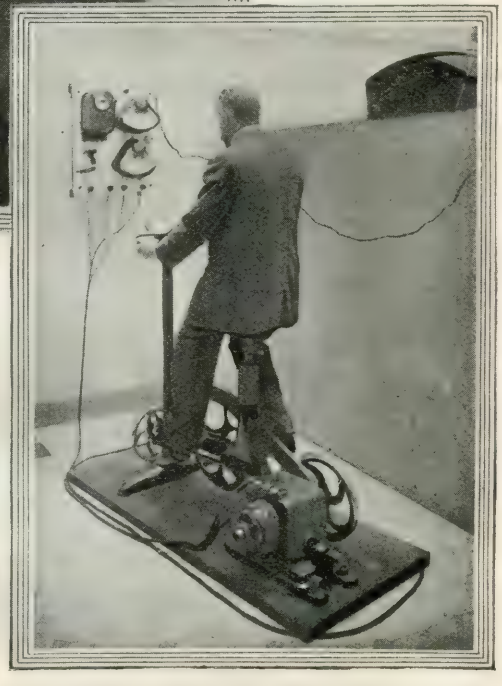
In brief, the diathermic method actually seems to be the one most efficacious for the relief of organs in low physical condition no matter what cause, whether it be cancer of the liver, stomach, or the intestines, large hemorrhages, blood poisoning, critical periods following serious sickness, etc. This method will furnish to the body, in the form of natural heat, a sufficient ration which while supplementing its energy deficit, accomplishes a desirable result without the assistance of the digestive apparatus.

This same practitioner has also demanded of electricity that it *reduce* the avoirdupois of his too obese clients. Instead of recommending the practise of sports or various forms of gymnastics, like many of his colleagues are in the habit of doing, he has invented the *ergometer* which is designed for the use of stout citizens. This apparatus is a sort of bicycle electrically propelled which will permit them to re-establish the equilibrium of energy necessary to the proper functioning of their organs. This is accomplisht by means of forced exercises regulated in a scientific and rational man-

(*Continued on page* 568)







Professor Bergonié, the famous French Researcher, Has Discovered That It Is Possible by Means of Certain Electric Currents to Convey Calories Into the Human Body. Calories Being the Equivalent of Food, Will Increase the Patient's Weight.

The Professor Has Also Constructed a Machine Which He Calls "the Ergometer," Shown at the Left. This Machine Makes Stout Persons Work Their Muscles.

To the Right, We See the Same Machine in Actual Use, and After the Patient Has Worked for a Certain Length of Time and Delivered the Prescribed Energy Into the Machine a Bell Rings and the Machine Stops.

Timing Sunlight for Plants

Too Long a Day Stops Flowering, Scientists of the Department of Agriculture Discover

SCIENTISTS have known for generations that sunlight was necessary for normal growth of most kinds of plants, and, altho the summer sun might occasionally become too hot, they have understood that it could not cause any injury except perhaps the injury due to *burning*. A recent discovery by W. W. Garner and H. A. Allard, of the Bureau of Plant Industry in U. S. Department of Agriculture, demonstrates that entirely apart from any effect of burning it is possible for plants *to have too much daylight* or, in other words, too many hours of daylight in comparison with the number of hours of darkness. Too long a day as well as too short a day will prevent many kinds of plants from ever reaching their stage of *flowering and fruiting*.

FLOWERING AND FRUITING PERIODS OF PLANTS CAN BE CONTROLLED.

Furthermore, the intensity of the light has very much less significance upon the growth of the plant than has usually been supposed. Greenhouse experiments prove that the flowering and fruiting period of practically any plant can be made to take place *at any time of the year* by darkening the greenhouse in the morning and evening if the day is too long, or by lengthening the day by artificial light if the day is too short! This new theory of controlling flowering and fruiting of plants undoubtedly will be used by florists and other greenhouse operators. For example, violets bloom only during the comparatively short days of spring; but if violet plants are covered with light-proof boxes at night and not uncovered until the sun is about half an hour high each morning during the summer-time, violets can be forced to bloom again in the summer. Spring flowers and spring crops happen to be spring flowers and spring crops because the days at the season of their flowering and fruiting have the proper number of hours of daylight. Correspondingly, the early summer flowers and crops must have a longer period of daylight. This has been proved as to a large number of plants, and the scientists believe that the principle will hold thruout the higher forms of plant life, and that it is probably applicable to animal life as well.

REPRODUCTION DEPENDS ON DAY LENGTH.

The plant cannot attain sexual reproduction, it has been shown, except when it is exposed to a favorable length of day. The requirements, however, differ widely with species and varieties. But a length of day that is unfavorable to reproduction may be favorable to growth. Under that condition, the plant continues its vegetative development profusely and indefinitely without bearing fruit. A length of day may be found that is favorable both to sexual reproduction and vegetative growth. That tends to bring about the "ever-bearing" type of fruiting.

By employing *dark chambers* to shorten the period of light and artificial lights to extend it, scientists of the Department have shortened or lengthened the life cycle of plants, have made some of them complete two cycles in a single season, have brought others into flower and fruit months in advance of their regular time and, with still others, have greatly delayed and even completely prevented fruiting.

Long series of tests have been made with soy beans, tobacco, wild aster, climbing hempweed, beans, ragweed, radish, carrot, lettuce, hibiscus, cabbage, violets, goldenrod, spinach, cosmos, iris, beggartick, buckwheat, and various other plants.

A test made with Biloxi soy beans will show how the principle works. For the test plants the day was shortened by several hours. That is, they were exposed to the light only from 10 o'clock in the morning till 3 o'clock in the afternoon. They were first placed in the dark house on May 20. Control plants, otherwise treated exactly like the test plants, were left exposed to the light from dawn till dark. The first blossoms appeared on the dark-house plants on June 16. No blossoms appeared until September 4 on the plants that were left in the light all day. But the dark-house plants averaged only 6 or 7 inches high, while the plants that were left in the light all day grew to an average height of 57 or 58 inches.

These plants required a short day and a long night for flowering and seed bearing. In tests with other plants, just the opposite was found to be true. The plants that were left in the light all day did not grow luxuriantly, but produced flowers and seed, while those that were kept in the dark a part of the day made abundant growth, but produced no seed or else were greatly retarded in producing seed.

TEMPERATURE HAS LITTLE INFLUENCE.

Temperature appeared to exert no influence in these tests. The results were the same, even when the temperature was higher in the dark house than on the outside. Another striking illustration of the relative unimportance of temperature is the fact that plants kept in the dark for a part of the day underwent, in midsummer, the changes that in Nature come in the fall and have always been attributed to lower temperatures. This, also, was true even when the dark houses registered a higher temperature than that of the outside summer atmosphere.

The results obtained by artificially extending the period of light are just as interesting as those obtained by artificially shortening it. The artificial illumination, in a test with iris, was so arranged as to give 18 hours of continuous light in a greenhouse during the winter. Control plants were kept in a similar greenhouse with no artificial light. The test was begun on October 20, 1919. In the greenhouse where daylight was supplemented with electric light the plants made rapid growth, soon attained normal size and produced blossoms on Dec. 24. The plants in the greenhouse where no artificial light was used, tho it was kept at the same temperature, remained practically dormant and (*Cont. on page* 536)

Biloxi Soybeans. Plants on Right Exposed to Light From Daylight to 10 A. M. and From 2 P. M. to Dark. Plants on Left Exposed to Light From 6 A. M. to 6 P. M., or 12 Hours Daily.

Ragweed. Plants on Left Exposed to Light From 9 A. M. to 4 P. M. Daily. Pollen Shedding Freely. Plants on Right Left Out of Doors as Controls. No signs of Flowering.

Aster Linariifolius L. Plants on Left Exposed to Light From 9 A. M. to 4 P. M. Daily. In Full Bloom. Plants on Right Left Out of Doors During Test. No Flower Heads.

Small "Dark Chamber" Used in the 1918 Sunlight Experiments.

How We "Taste"

By JOSEPH H. KRAUS

ONE of our most important functions (without which much of the pleasure of existing in this sphere would be lost), is our ability to detect differences and similarities of foods and beverages or in other words, differences in taste. This we owe to the brain and its communicating nerves travelling to the cells relegated to perform that duty. These end organs in the human being are found in the tongue and represented as *taste-buds,* tiny oval single cell structures imbedded in the upper cell epithelium (skin covering of the tongue). This epithelium is arranged in layers. A few of these taste-buds are scattered on the hard palate, in the throat, the tonsils, the inner surface of the cheek, and other surrounding tissues.

On the tongue, they are found chiefly in the grooves around certain hill-like structures, called vallate, or circumvallate, papillae (a small nipple). If the tongue is examined on close range, it will be found to be extremely rough, due to these hill-like structures and the four distinct types of hills dependent on their shape can readily be ascertained, even by aid of an ordinary magnifying glass.

First, we have the vallate papillae or otherwise known as circumvallate papillae. These contain the greatest number of taste-buds. Each bud has an elongated pore opening on the surface in the groove surrounding these papillae of which there are seven to twelve in number and so arranged as to form the two limbs of the letter "V."

The formation can be readily seen in examination of the tongue, even without the aid of a lens. In form the vallate papilla is a broad and nearly cylindrical "pimple," altho it is slightly narrower at its base than at the top and is, so to speak, sunk into a pit. It is thus surrounded by a trench or groove, much resembling the cross-section of a moat surrounding a castle.

Second, we find the fungiform papillae much smaller but greater in number than the former. They are found chiefly at the tip and sides of the tongue, altho a few are scattered elsewhere. They can readily be distinguished by their bright red color. The conical papillae are smaller in size and are found even to a greater extent than the fungiform. They are minute conical projections tapering toward the free ends; and lastly, the filiform papillae which are similar to the above but the epithelium or skin on the surface is broken up into threadlike filaments.

Scattered thru the tongue are the taste-buds each of which, on examination under the microscope, will be found to consist of one cell with a tube-like projection running to the surface of the tongue. Around this cell, if the specimen has been properly stained, will be found the tree-like terminal nerve endings which do not enter the cell itself, but surround that cell.

This is the typical taste-cell depicted in our illustration. In order, however, to determine the presence of any taste we must have a substance which will stimulate these taste-buds, and therefore, the substance must be soluble in some liquids or if not already in solution and in powder form, it must be soluble in the saliva contained in the mouth.

Altho at first this may be difficult to comprehend, it can easily be demonstrated in the following manner.

Quinine in powder form, due to the fact that it is *insoluble* in neutral or slightly alkaline solutions, is practically tasteless, although in reality, if dissolved in some solution slightly acid as for instance saliva, the sensation produced is very bitter and disagreeable.

Strange to say, the number of different tastes which we recognize is very limited, six being the maximum number. We recognize sweet, sour, bitter, salt and alkaline and a metallic taste, and altho many authorities claim that other substances when taken into the mouth, would give us a marked sensation, such a sensation is due not to the stimulation of the taste-buds, in the tongue, but to the fact that the foods stimulate in addition to these taste-buds, the nerve ending of *Smell!* Another strange feature is that one solution can neutralize the taste of another, for instance *a solution of salt is rendered almost tasteless by the addition to it of a few grains of sugar.* On the other hand, if these primitive tastes are taken in strong enough quantities, we get a mixed sensation in which salt and sweet are distinctly noticeable. And altho we get no such sensation as in the eye, where a white light may result from stimulation of the retina by two complementary colors, we can very often neutralize the tastes, in the ways before described, deceiving ourselves.

Distilled water, as is well known, is absolutely free from all impurities, *and is both tasteless and odorless;* yet if the mouth

(*Continued on page* 533)

KRAUSES MEMBRANE
KNOWN NOW TO BE AN INSULATING COVERING.
VALLATE PAPILLÆ IN "V" FORMATION - NOTE VALLEY ROUND WHICH TASTE-BUDS LIE.
TONGUE
FUNGIFORM PAPILLA & BLOOD VESSELS.
FILIFORM PAPILLA.
CUT ACROSS-
CONICAL PAPILLA.
VALLATE PAPILLA TASTE-BUD AND PORE.
ELECTRICITY CONCENTRATING AT POINTS.
NOTE SIMILARITY TO NERVE.
TASTE-BUD GROUP AND SUPPORTING TISSUE STRUCTURES.
TASTE-BUD NERVE AND CELL.
CONDENSER ANALOGY BETWEEN NERVE AND CELL.
CONDENSER
W.M. BUTTERFIELD.

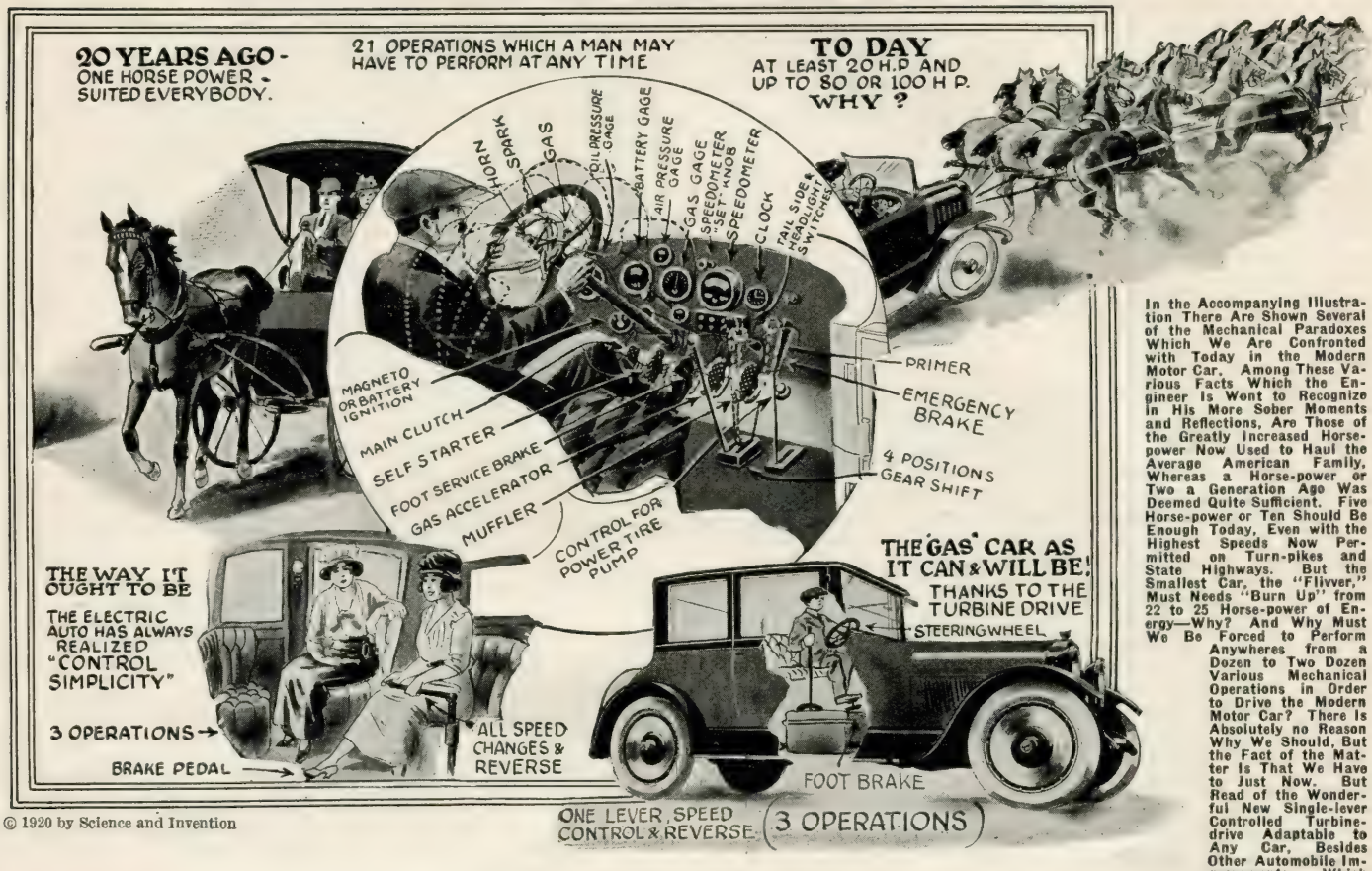
Above We See a Representation of the Tongue on Which Are Found in Great Numbers the Organs of Taste, or Better Known as "Taste Buds." The "Vallate Papillae" Are Small Hill-Like Structures Each Completely Surrounded by a Groove and Are Arranged in Inverted "V" Formation. Into the Bottom of These Grooves, the Pores of a Great Many Taste-Buds Open. Each Taste-Bud Is Completely Surrounded By Tree-Like Ramifications of Nerves, Ending in Very Fine Delicate Fibers.

Assuming Then That the Condenser-Like Action Between a Cell and Nerve Takes Place, We Have a Very Clever Analogy Simply Seen in the Condenser Effect, Which Everyone Has Already Noticed, and the Reason Why the Nerve Terminal Is More Sensitive at Its Fine Filamentous End. Is Because of the Fact That the Insulating Membrane, Known as Krause's Membrane, Is Not Present in That Region and in Addition, Electricity Concentrates at Pointed Ends. This Is Noticed in the Tesla Coil, the Secondary of Which in Operation, Will Have a Greater Brush Discharge at the Pointed End of a Wire, Than at Any Other Portion.

On the Tongue Itself, With the Aid of a Magnifying Glass, the Hill-Like Structures Can Readily Be Likened to Those Shown Enlarged in the Above Diagram. Here We Have the Papillae Already Mentioned, Then in Addition, a Conical, a Flat, and a Fine Thread-Like Set. The Complete Structure of the Taste-Bud Is Clearly Depicted in the Upper Right Hand Corner. Here, the Group of Taste-Cells Is Seen to be Firmly Supported By Surrounding Tissues, the Cellular Structure Running Off Into the Skin and Muscle Coats of the Tongue.

What's Wrong with the Motor Car?

By H. WINFIELD SECOR


20 YEARS AGO - ONE HORSE POWER - SUITED EVERYBODY.
21 OPERATIONS WHICH A MAN MAY HAVE TO PERFORM AT ANY TIME
TO DAY AT LEAST 20 H.P AND UP TO 80 OR 100 H P. WHY ?
HORN
SPARK
GAS
OIL PRESSURE GAGE
BATTERY GAGE
AIR PRESSURE GAGE
GAS GAGE
SPEEDOMETER "SET" KNOB
SPEEDOMETER
CLOCK
TAIL SIDE & HEADLIGHT SWITCHES
PRIMER
EMERGENCY BRAKE
4 POSITIONS GEAR SHIFT
MAGNETO OR BATTERY IGNITION
MAIN CLUTCH
SELF STARTER
FOOT SERVICE BRAKE
GAS ACCELERATOR
MUFFLER
CONTROL FOR POWER TIRE PUMP
THE WAY IT OUGHT TO BE
THE ELECTRIC AUTO HAS ALWAYS REALIZED "CONTROL SIMPLICITY"
3 OPERATIONS
BRAKE PEDAL
ALL SPEED CHANGES & REVERSE
THE GAS CAR AS IT CAN & WILL BE!
THANKS TO THE TURBINE DRIVE
STEERING WHEEL
FOOT BRAKE
ONE LEVER, SPEED CONTROL & REVERSE (3 OPERATIONS)

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In the Accompanying Illustration There Are Shown Several of the Mechanical Paradoxes Which We Are Confronted with Today in the Modern Motor Car. Among These Various Facts Which the Engineer Is Wont to Recognize in His More Sober Moments and Reflections, Are Those of the Greatly Increased Horse-power Now Used to Haul the Average American Family, Whereas a Horse-power or Two a Generation Ago Was Deemed Quite Sufficient. Five Horse-power or Ten Should Be Enough Today, Even with the Highest Speeds Now Permitted on Turn-pikes and State Highways. But the Smallest Car, the "Flivver," Must Needs "Burn Up" from 22 to 25 Horse-power of Energy—Why? And Why Must We Be Forced to Perform Anywheres from a Dozen to Two Dozen Various Mechanical Operations in Order to Drive the Modern Motor Car? There Is Absolutely no Reason Why We Should, But the Fact of the Matter Is That We Have to Just Now. But Read of the Wonderful New Single-lever Controlled Turbine-drive Adaptable to Any Car, Besides Other Automobile Improvements Which Are Bound to Come.

AS you sit behind the wheel of your new Hudson Super-Six or your twelve-cylinder Packard, you undoubtedly entertain, and for very good reasons, the idea that here indeed, is one of man's finest mechanical productions. But while it looks all very fine and beautiful to see a string of modern motorcars moving along at a speed of from 20 to 30 miles an hour on our interurban turnpikes and boulevards, the engineer looks at this same line of moving horseless vehicles from an entirely different point of view from the layman. Some of the ideas and reflections which constantly revolve in the mind of the trained technician, as he watches the performances of the twentieth century automobile, are presented in the following.

TWENTY-FIVE TO ONE HUNDRED HORSE-POWER INSTEAD OF ONE!

Twenty years ago, back in the good old horse days, when the obituary column of the daily newspapers did not contain several dozen notices of automobile casualties, when Old Dobbin was King of all he surveyed and the gasoline-engine propelled vehicle, a thing of mystery and novelty indeed, you and I and our fathers and mothers were glad enough to have a ride along the public highways with a horse and wagon. If several people were going out driving, then we generally had recourse to two horses, or a team.

Now bear in mind that in those palmy days you went out driving in a one H.P. or two H.P. vehicle. Most probably, you do not reconcile the value of the one live horse-power as developt by Old Dobbin plodding jauntily down the road with the evaluated horse-power developt by the modern automobile engine. But such is the case nevertheless, and the fact of the matter is that when you step into your "Flivver" and start feeding the gas to the engine, you are warming up a mechanical horse with a power equivalent to 22 Old Dobbins—just think of it!

Altho we believe the modern motor car to be nearly perfect, there is a vast field for improvement

This statement is based on the fact that the horse-power, as it is usually exprest, is the amount of energy required to lift 33,000 pounds one foot per minute. (This was originally determined upon and evaluated by taking a number of measurements on several big London draft horses, back in the days when the first steam engines were being built, and when the need of a unit of work or energy was badly wanted.) It was then found that one of these big draft horses such as were used to pull heavy drays, could lift a weight of 240 pounds thru a height of 138 feet in one minute. This is the same as lifting 33,000 pounds one foot in one minute's time; or lifting one pound thru a distance of 33,000 feet in one minute. Thus, the horse-power is evaluated as the equivalent of 33,000 foot-pounds exerted thru one minute of time. A man working steadily, can, for a limited period, exert about 1/5th H.P. A professional strong man might perform a feat of weight lifting and exert momentarily, one H.P. of energy.

And so it comes to pass that when we start to analyze the modern motor car, we find that we are paying for gasoline at a good, fat price to feed the mechanical horse rated at anywhere from 20 to 30 H.P. and even up to 100 H.P., such as possest by big engines like the 12-cylinder motors used in some of the highest powered motor cars, all for the purpose of flying along main thorofares and highways at speeds of anywhere from 15 to 60 miles an hour! Not only is this the cause of many accidents, (which the writer predicts will eventually have to be curtailed by a law, either state or national, which will prohibit the building and operating of such high power cars, or else to enforce the enplacement of an automatic speed governor when it is licensed); but the present gasoline shortage is one of the answers to this problem. Incidentally, the cost of owning and operating an automobile today is very far beyond what it should be for the average American citizen or family.

Why is this? There are several reasons, pro and con, but we come face to face with facts which prove, to begin with, that a high horse-power motor car is nothing else but a nuisance and danger to the community. Even a 25 H.P. car is usually much stronger than one needs.

"But," you will say, "If they put a smaller engine than the 22 H.P. type in my car, I cannot climb a steep hill." Perhaps this may be so under the conditions by which you prefer to ride. What are these conditions? Simply this: Instead of having a light vehicle like that you used to ride in twenty years ago, i. e., a buggy or phaeton, you now demand luxurious and heavily upholstered leather cushions, on a heavy chassis, supported by some more uncessarily heavy wheels and big rubber tires; besides carting along a quarter to half a ton of dead weight in the form of a gasoline engine—and for all these things, and also due to the loss of power in friction and gearing; and furthermore due to the

(*Continued on page* 526)

Archimedes—The World's First Great Inventor

ARCHIMEDES was undoubtedly the first real, scientific inventor of our world. According to history, he was born about 287 B. C. and died at the age of 75, having perished in the sack of Syracuse, 212 B. C. Archimedes was the son of Pheidias, the Greek astronomer, and was on very intimate terms with (if not related) to King Hieron and his son Gelon. In his early years he spent considerable time at Alexandra in carrying on some of his intensive studies. Later he returned to the city of Syracuse, where he lived a life practically entirely devoted to researches in mathematics.

We of today are quite wont to think that the mathematics and kindred laws of today are solely the work of mathematicians who have lived in the past few hundred years, but when we come to examine the remarkable and extensive amount of mathematical work done by Archimedes we are astonished indeed. Archimedes undoubtedly had very clear conceptions regarding some of the foremost mathematical problems and laws upon which we still base some of our major calculations today. His researches, especially in his later life, branched out now and then into some of the more utilitarian applications of science; but it was a well-known trait of Archimedes, oft repeated by his friends and recorded in the history of his life, that he scorned wasting any time on practical everyday affairs. He devoted all of his time and energy solely to the more deeper and philosophical aspects of earthly problems. However, be that as it may, it is because of his very ingenious and mechanical practical inventions that the average person of today knows anything at all concerning Archimedes; and not because of his more abstract mathematical theories, which have been to a great extent quite lost sight of except to students of ancient history and particularly the older history of mathematics and inventions.

In the words of Plutarch—"Archimedes possest so high a spirit, so profound a soul, and such treasures of scientific knowledge that, tho these inventions had obtained for him the renown of more than human sagacity, he yet would not deign to leave behind him any written work on such subjects, but, regarding as ignoble and sordid the business of mechanics and every sort of art which is directed to use and profit, he placed his whole ambition in those speculations in whose beauty and subtlety there is no admixture of the common needs of life." As a matter of fact Archimedes wrote only one mechanical book on "Sphere-Making."

During the siege of Syracuse by the Romans, however, many ingenious devices were invented or contrived by Archimedes and used with overawing effect. When the Romans attacked the city, he contrived giant catapults so cleverly constructed that they would hurl heavy projectiles in the form of rocks and other objects over both long and short ranges, and he devised as well powerful machines for discharging showers of missles thru holes made in the walls of the forts.

THE ARCHIMEDES' PUMP.

Among the many accomplishments in the realm of inventions by Archimedes we find his famous *water-screw*, or *pump*. This perhaps is one of the best known today of this early philosopher's work. Even yet, one may find in far parts of the world, water pumps operating on the principle of the Archimedes spiral screw. This pump is simplicity itself and merely comprises a tube wound around a central axle in a spirular formation, as shown in the accompanying illustration. When the handle on the upper end of the pump axle is turned, either by man-power on small pumps, or by horse or cattle on the larger pumps used to irrigate land in Egypt and other countries, the water is forced up thru this tubular spiral and flows from the upper opening in a constant stream.

THE "BLOCK AND FALL."

Archimedes found from his extensive study of the many and varied problems of geometry that there was undoubtedly a very close relation between those geometrical laws and the everyday problems of moving large weights or loads with small forces, etc. The lifting tackle, or "block and fall," illustrated herewith, suspended from a tripod, represents the discovery of the multiple sheeve lifting tackle by Archimedes. This marked a great advance in the accomplishment of mechanical work in the early years of history, as may be readily imagined. Thanks to the multiplying power of the "block and fall," one man could lift as great a weight as a dozen men, providing 12 ropes were used, with a corresponding set of pulleys in the two blocks, and Archimedes successfully demonstrated that he could move a large vessel with one of his multiplying blocks or mechanisms single handedly! The King and the people were amazed at this remarkable demonstration, and special commendation was accorded to Archimedes for this spectacular demonstration of applied science.

One of the most famous mathematical problems worked out by Archimedes and familiar to students the world over today is the Archimedian spiral. Archimedes worked out all of the mathematical relations and factors having to do with the building of this spiral and, of course, when once this was done, architects and others could easily work out this curve of any size desired. The drawing of the Archimedian spiral and Latin text describing it, shown on the opposite page, were photographed from an old book dated 1500.

ARCHIMEDES DISCOVERS "SPECIFIC GRAVITY" RATIO.

"Specific gravity" is defined as the ratio of two bodies of different densities determined by various physical means, one method of determining which is to divide the weight in air by the loss of weight in water, which gives the specific gravity of the object. Hiero, King of Syracuse, once commissioned Archimedes to discover, if he could, whether the gold which he had given to an artisan to work into a crown for him had been worked up with baser metal. This puzzled Archimedes for some time, until one day as he was stepping into his bath he observed the water running over, and it at once occurred to him that the bulk occasioned by the addition of an alloy could be measured by placing the crown and an equal amount of gold separately into a vessel filled with water and observing the exact difference of overflow. It is recorded that he was so enthused and overjoyed with this discovery that he ran home without his clothes, shouting, "Eureka, Eureka! (I have found it, I have found it!")

It is believed that this eventually led to his establishing the great fundamental principle of hydrostatics, which is still known by his name—*that a body immersed in a liquid exerts an upward pressure equal to the weight of liquid displaced.*

BURNING OF SHIPS BY HUGE MIRROR AND LENS.

One of the stories which has been repeated a million times, but which historians are generally wont to discredit since there seems to be no authentic record by the ancient historians—nor modern proof—is that describing how Archimedes designed and built a huge *burning mirror* with suitable reflectors, which projected such a powerful ray of sunlight that it set fire to Roman ships when they were within a bowshot away from the fortress wall. It is thought by later historians that such a principle had been worked out and demonstrated for philosophical and other reasons by Archimedes; and that it is not so probable at all that this had anything to do with the setting on fire of the Roman ships. However, there is a possibility that such an effect could have been attained under the stress of war, as the bits of history and writings which have come down to us regarding the work of Archimedes are very meagre and scattered indeed.

The wonderful possibilities and the various operating principles of the lever were first discovered and shown in their application to mechanics by Archimedes. His own estimate of the capabilities and possibilities of the lever is shown in his expression, "Give me a fulcrum on which to rest and I will move the Earth."

ASTRONOMICAL DISCOVERIES.

One of the principal philosophical studies in which Archimedes indulged was that of

(*Continued on page* 563)

For "October"

Photographing Flight of Bullets. By Pierre H. Boucheron.

Weighing Light Beams. By Dr. Alfred Gradenwitz.

Radio Transmission of Power. The real Thing with photos of the Actual High-power Apparatus. By Samuel Cohen.

Velocity of Light. By Prof. James S. Stevens.

Electricity and the Weatherman.

A Day with "Central"—Written by a "Hello Girl." Illustrated.

What you Should Know About Electric Lamps—Watts, Voltage and Candle-Power Explained.. Written by an Illuminating Engineer.

The Sun's Unknown Rays. By Rogers D. Rusk, M.A.

A Miniature Electrical Universe. The Startling work of Dr. Birkeland. Fully Illustrated.

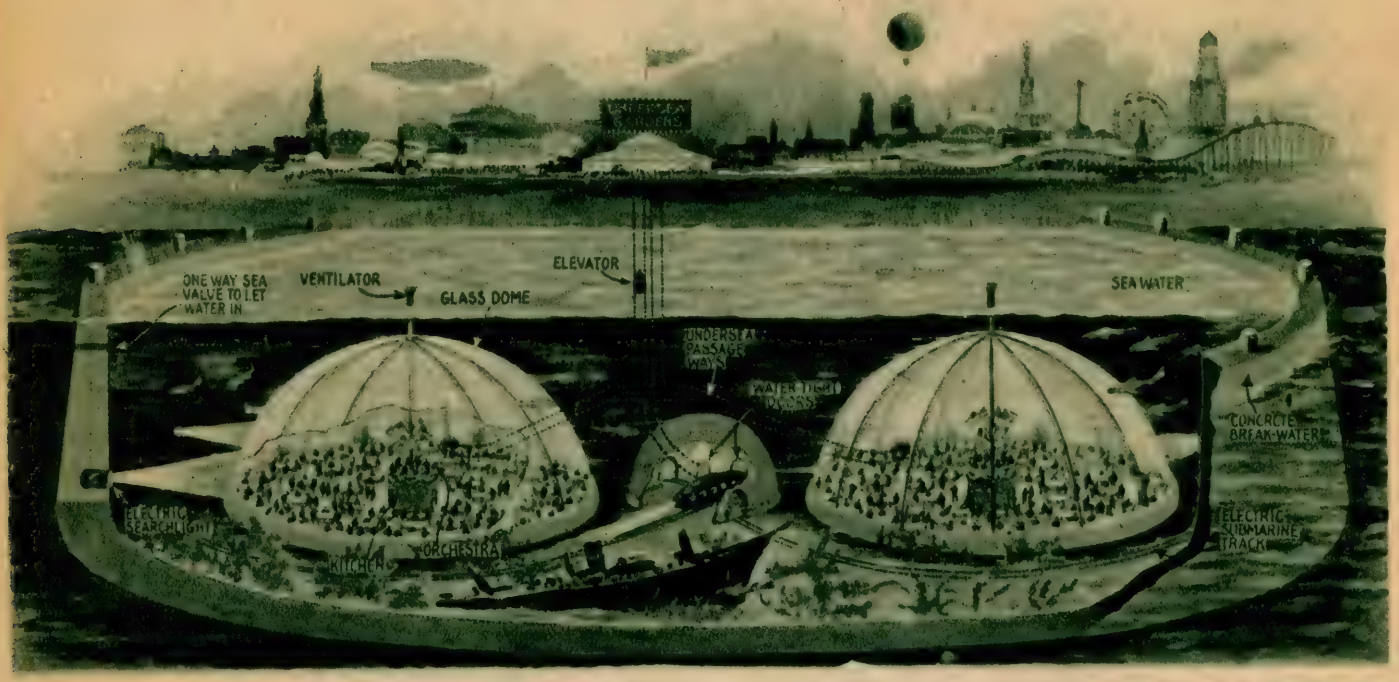
Simplest Long Wave Radio Receiver. Full Specifications and Drawings. By Elliot A. White.

How Big are Molecules? By Rogers D. Rusk, M.A.

DISCOVERED THE PRINCIPLE OF THE LEVER
"EUREKA" HE DISCOVERS THE PRINCIPLE OF SPECIFIC GRAVITY.
THE FIRST "BLOCK & FALL" WITH MULTIPLYING PULLEYS
CATAPULTS FOR STORMING ROMAN FORTS
ARCHIMEDES' WATER SCREW
ARCHIMEDES
THE WORLD'S FIRST GREAT INVENTOR
COMPOUND GEAR FOR MULTIPLYING POWER
BURNING SHIPS WITH MAGNIFYING GLASS AND SUN'S RAYS.
TOMB OF ARCHIMEDES
ARCHIMEDES' SPIRAL AND PAGE FROM BOOK DATED 1500
ΠΡΟΒΛΗΜΑ.
Spiralem describere.
INVENTED VARIOUS INSTRUMENTS FOR MEASURING SIZE AND ANGULAR POSITION OF THE HEAVENLY BODIES
ARCHIMEDES' PLANETARY SYSTEM
DEATH OF ARCHIMEDES

Undersea Amusement Park

By F. E. LOUDY, A. E.



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The Newest Innovation in Pleasure Resorts and Amusements Is the "Undersea Amusement Park," Here Proposed by Mr. Loudy. The Cost of Building Such an Amusement Feature at Our Seaside Resorts Would Not Be So Great as It Might at First Be Imagined. The Electrical Illuminating Features Are Very Spectacular and Entrancing, and Those So Disposed Can Enjoy All the Thrills of a Submarine Trip Under the Ocean in the Small Submersible Boat Which Runs Along the Rails Propelled by Electric Motors Geared to the Wheels on Which It Runs. Electric Elevators Take the Pleasure-Seekers Down to the Sub-Sea Restaurant and Amusements.

THE Prince of Monaco may descend to the bottom of the ocean at the base of a cliff, sixty feet below the surface of the Mediterranean, and here thru a large window he may view the fauna and flora of the sea. It may not be long before we may all enjoy these pleasures at our sea or lake resorts. It is proposed to erect a large horseshoe breakwater adjoining the shore, and dredge to a depth of fifty feet. The breakwater will act as a cofferdam, wherein the two glass-domed observation stations and the submarine chamber will be erected, as well as a railway for the submarine. When this park is ready for operation the water will be admitted, and everything will be submerged.

The breakwater keeps boats out, prevents the waves from damaging the park, as well as keeping ice from breaking things up in the winter. One-way valves are located at intervals around the breakwater to allow the water to enter, but not to escape with the rise and fall of the tides.

A visitor to the Subsea Park will first enter a concrete elevator shaft, protruding above land, and will descend to the concrete tubular walkway to either observation station. Here he may seat himself at a table and order all of the choicest seafoods. The galley or kitchen is located in the center of the station above which is the orchestra. At the top of the glass dome is a ventilating tube, extending above the surface of the water. The visitor may observe all the different forms of subsea life as fish from all parts of the ocean will be placed inside of the breakwater, where they cannot escape.

Next he will go thru the subterranean passageway into the submarine chamber, and take his seat near a large portlight. The door on the submarine is closed. Next the entrance door to the chamber is closed. The chamber is then filled with water, and the four large doors opened. The navigator turns his controller and the electric motors turn the propeller. The boat begins to move along the track, first passing a sunken ship. The illuminated observation stations present a gorgeous spectacle thru the water. Searchlights are also placed at intervals along the base of the breakwater. Here again the visitor observes the fishes as they swim around. The submarine, after traveling once around the figure eight track, returns to its chamber. The large doors are closed, the water removed by comprest air, the passageway door opened. The visitor then walks to the elevator shaft, and is then taken from the coolness of the ocean bottom to the torrid heat of the world above once more.

SOME MECHANICAL FEATURES AND PROBLEMS.

We have now considered some of the interesting and extremely novel pleasure features of this new undersea amusement resort, and probably, a few words as to the building of the subsea resort will be of interest. Most probably, the glass dome chambers shown will not be built of a particularly great height or depth which ever you want to call it, as for every foot that you go down beneath the surface of the water, the pressure increases .4 lb., or nearly ½ a pound per square inch.

Thus at a depth of 50 feet, the water pressure is about 20 pounds per square inch, and at a depth of 100 feet, it is about 40 pounds per square inch. Thus it will be seen what the engineering features met with in building such a pleasure resort, are. Great care must be taken to see that the steel frame-work and the glass plates used in building the domes and side walls are made thoroly water-tight, and also sufficiently thick to withstand the water pressure at the lower depths.

A very interesting feature which has already been touched upon, is the chamber housing the submarine. The entrance door to the central submarine housing chamber is shut just before the submarine takes its passengers on board, and prepares to make a trip over the figure eight track around the glass domed restaurants. After closing the doors on the submarine, it is then a simple matter by the aid of an electrical or pneumatic mechanism, to cause the sea doors to open, so that the submarine can move along on its electric motor-propelled wheels over the rails provided.

The submarine will contain the usual apparatus for supplying fresh air for the short period in which the passengers are en route. When the submarine arrives back in its central disembarking chamber, several interesting things occur. There are numerous ways in which the sea doors opening out of this chamber can be closed and the water removed from the chamber, such as by pumping out the water with large electrically driven pumps, or else by blowing out the water by means of comprest air, supplied by large, electric motor-driven air compressors.

Assuming that one or the other methods are used, the sea doors are closed as soon as the submarine has entered the chamber; and by means of signal lights or else by observing the conditions of the chamber thru one of the thick glass port windows in the submarine, the Captain in charge of it will know when it is safe to open the door of the latter, and discharge his passengers. Special means will be provided, of course, for quickly drying out the chamber and draining the water from the floor, which effect may be hastened to a great extent by making the floor in the form of a grill or lattice work.

SPLENDORS OF UNDERSEA ILLUMINATION.

Not only will such an undersea amusement resort present features of unusual attraction and enchantment to those patronizing it, but it will also be a thing of wonder and awe to those on shore, who can look down into the water and see the flickering shadows and flashing lights thru the rippling waters covering the resort.

The extraordinary lighting effects which can be obtained very easily in such an un-

(*Continued on page* 542)

The Unknown Avenger

By HAROLD F. RICHARDS, Ph. D.

IT was a strange group that stood on a broad, flat rock which formed a little open space at the water's edge on the barren coast of Iceland. Four there were in the party, and in the eyes of three of them gleamed the look of evil satisfaction that comes into the eye of the hunted tiger when he has finally turned at bay and placed his paw safely upon the neck of his prostrate enemy. Slim Kelly, crack ferret of the Secret Service, calmly leveled a deliberate glance at the three. His hands were trussed behind his back, his automatic no longer occupied its familiar place at his hip and his silver emblem of the Service had just been tossed into the cold waters of the sea. But he was game.

"What are you going to do?" he questioned in exactly the same tone that he would have used in asking for a cigarette.

Jacob von Hernholtz stood erect before the prisoner. German spy that he was, he possest a dignified bearing, which was enhanced by his long fur coat. His face was that of the aristocrat accustomed to the best that wealth can afford. His close-set blue eyes seemed to glow with a greenish glint as he contemptuously surveyed the captive. His voice was velvety and as smoothly modulated as the liquid tones of a contralto as he addrest Slim Kelly.

"First of all, Mr. Kelly, I think that we had better make a little bonfire of those papers which you just took from my desk on the yacht." His eyes turned to the elegant steam yacht riding easily off the shore.

Carefully, with every regard for the comfort of the prisoner, von Hernholtz extracted from Kelly's inner pocket several official-looking documents, and his eye revealed his satisfaction as he deliberately looked thru them. He handed the papers to Lendorff, whose face lighted as he scanned their contents. Lendorff had every appearance of the scholar, and as Slim watched his sharp, black eye, academic severity of countenance and brow much furrowed as if by close application to many abstruse manuscripts, he wondered mentally at the many types of men whom the German diplomatic service had been able to enlist in the nefarious plots that circulated as an undercurrent thruout the length and breadth of the land. At length Lendorff seemed satisfied and, crushing the red-sealed papers in his hand, he placed them in a little heap on the rock at their feet. Turning to the third member of the group, he bowed deferentially, and said:

"And you, Madame Holt, shall have the pleasure of destroying these little souvenirs which Mr. Kelly has so assiduously sought for the last ten months."

Elaine Holt smiled in acknowledgment It was not a pretty smile, but rather one which revealed a hardness that seemed out of place on her beautiful face. Her features were perfectly modeled, giving to her countenance the distinguished look of a patrician of undiluted extraction, but the cold, calculating expression in her black eyes suggested at once those qualities which had made her one of the most valued agents of the whole German service. Beautiful, polished, resourceful and unrelenting in her pursuit of any information that might prove of value to the government which paid her so extravagantly, she had ferreted out many valuable secrets. Many an officer or diplomatic attaché had felt the power of her magnetic personality, had succumbed to her overpowering attractions, and waked from his dream of love only to find himself hoodwinked and disgraced, with no recourse but to resign his position and start anew in some spot far removed from Washington.

Withdrawing one gloved hand from the warm depths of her luxurious black seal muff, she took the embossed gold case which Lendorff extended, twirled with a dainty

(*Continued on page* 553)

"Too Bad That Madame Will Have to Wear a Heavy Veil All Her Life. New York's Gatherings Will Regret the Loss of One of Their Loveliest Women" . . .

The Airplane

By H.

This 1,000-Foot Monster Airplane of the Future, Which Can Carry From 1,000 to 1,500 Passengers and Tons of Cargo, Is Not a Wild Dream, But a Reality. A Smaller Similar Machine (See Actual Photo Below) Has Already Been Built by Mr. Wm. B. Stout. This Future "Batwing" Will Fly at the Tremendous Speed of 500 Miles an Hour. In Other Words, the Trip From New York to London Will Take But Six Hours!

WE are about to witness a great revolution in airplane construction in the very near future. The present airplane as far as its construction is concerned has about reached its limit for a number of reasons. One of the most important reasons is that the extra bracing and struts required to give strength to the present day giant airplane retards its speed due to the greatly added air resistance. The other chief reason is the limited passenger and cargo space available even in our huge, present day machines. Every pound of cargo that we add increases the spread of the wings and again makes it necessary to use more and larger struts, which in turn decreases the speed of the machine.

During the war William B. Stout, an American aeronautical engineer, formerly with the Air-Craft force in Washington, produced a wonderful new airplane, a photograph of which appears on this page. He was assisted by Orville Wright, the inventor of the airplane, as well as the U. S. Government. The machine is known as the *hollow wing type*, and it is claimed that this machine anticipates the German machine of the same type recently put into use in the United States. Mr. Stout built his original machine at Dayton, Ohio, during the war and the first flight of the new airplane was made in the year 1918.

The plans had been kept secret and more than 1,000 men located in different cities made the various parts of the machine inasmuch as the Government wished to keep the design secret. However, photographs and blueprints were stolen during the war and thus found their way into German hands, thus giving them the idea for their airplane.

The revolutionary feature of the Stout "Batwing" is nothing but a giant double wing with all the machinery, trussing, etc., housed right inside of the hollow wings. The engines are placed in the front edge, while the passengers and cargo are enclosed between the wing surfaces. The important point is that every part of the machine exposed to the air is designed with the sole idea to LIFT.

Altho the new airplane has 480 square feet of wing surface, or 40 square feet more than an army two-seater, it only weighs half as much as the latter. In other words, 1,550 pounds as against the 3,220 pounds of the army machine!

The "Batwing" has been tested in a wind tunnel for a speed of 217 miles an hour, and it is claimed that it can rise easily to 32,000 feet. It can climb a mile in 2½ minutes and all this is accomplisht with a little 180 horsepower motor. An unexpected result of the new construction is that inasmuch as the radiators are housed inside of

Below: Actual Photo of the Hollow-Wing "Batwing" Airplane Invented by Wm. B. Stout, Who Was Assisted by Orville Wright and the U. S. Government. The Machine Was Built in 1918.

Above: A Side View of the Airplane of the Future. The Lower Surfaces of the Wing Are Curved Downwards to Obtain a Better Purchase on the Air. Note That Such a Machine Has no Struts or Wires. Everything Is Inside of the Metallic Envelope.

of the Future

GERNSBACK

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Eight 100-Foot Monster Propellers Drive the Huge Air Liner, Which Is Entirely Enclosed Within a Metallic Envelope Made of Magnesium, a Metal Thirty Per Cent Lighter Than Aluminum. Altho This Airplane Does Not "Look Safe," Experiments Have Shown That It Is SAFER Than the Present Type Airplane. Due to Its Huge Surface, Such a Machine Acts Like a Parachute, and Actually Prevents the Air Monster From Making a Too Rapid Descent.

the wings, the passengers and pilot are easily kept warm when the machine rises to high altitudes.

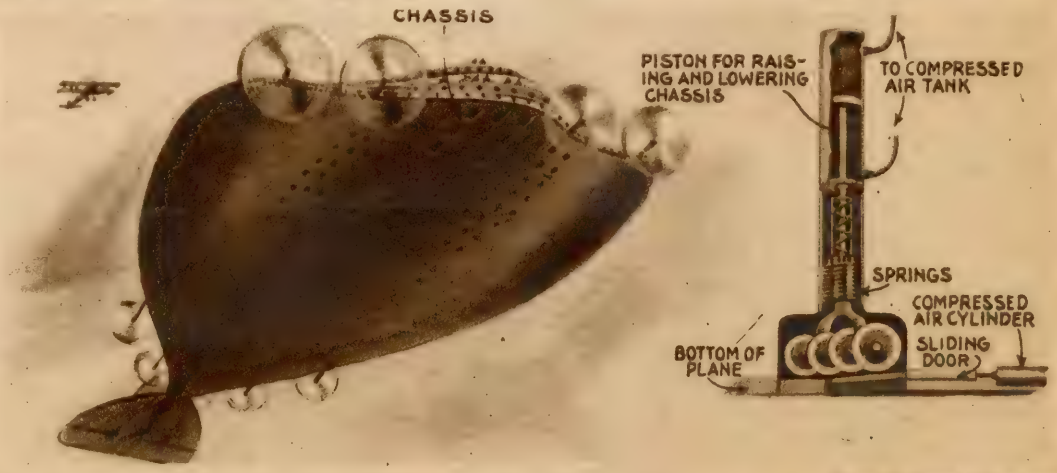
Another novel idea presents itself in the larger types, where the landing gear is made to pull into the wing so as to give less air resistance. So much for the machine that has been actually built and is in existence. We now get a good conception of what the huge aerial liner of tomorrow will look like. We have tried to show in our large illustration just how such a new aerial monster will appear in ten or fifteen years from now. All of our preconceived ideas as to what an airplane should look like are swept away by Mr. Stout's revolutionary invention.

The important and outstanding fact as well as the revolutionary possibilities which made the "Batwing" possible are best explained in the following:

The lifting power of an airplane wing depends solely on its curve and it is not affected by its thickness. You will have to ponder awhile over this seemingly impossible statement, which is not a theory by any means but has been brought out by actual tests of Mr. Stout's "Batwing." In other words, this means that the future airplane will be constructed, not like a frail kite-like machine, such as our present day airplanes, but rather like an ocean greyhound built on sound engineering principles. Once our struts and braces are enclosed between two parallel surfaces nearly all our wind resistance vanishes and the plane can be pusht ahead at a very much smaller expenditure of power. Not only this, but the size of the future airplane is no longer of consequence as long as we have sufficient power to propel the airplane. Furthermore, if we provide sufficiently large landing fields or air ports, the airplane of the future can be built in unbelievably large proportions. A thousand-footer will be nothing to wonder at tomorrow and will be as common as the 200-foot steamship is today.

We have tried to show in our large illustration how such a thousand-foot monster appears winging its way homeward from its European trip. A machine of this kind driven by a great many propellers easily averages 500 miles an hour and for that reason can make the trip from Europe readily in six or seven hours. In other words, a man can transact business in New

(*Continued on page* 576)



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Bottom View of the Machine. Note Particularly the Chassis or Landing Gears Withdrawn Within the Machine—Just Like a Bird Draws Its Feet Close to the Body to Cut Down Air Resistance. The Landing Skids, Too, Withdraw, But Are Pusht Outward Just Before Landing. The Circular Holes in the Lower Surface of the Machine Are Glass-Covered Portholes. Insert Shows How Chassis Is Lowered by Means of Compresst Air.

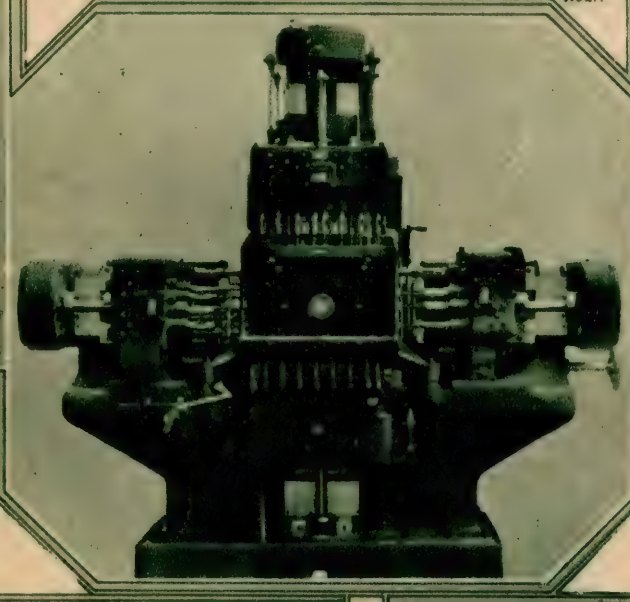
SCIENCE NEWS

Latest Gasoline Motor Converting Any Bicycle into a Motorcycle Capable of 20 Miles Per Hour

"Safety-first" Electric Sign 2 Miles Under-ground in Western Gold and Silver Mine. The Latest Idea in "Safety-first" Mine Work

Above—First Electrical Apparatus Built and Used by Benjamin Franklin in 1754. It is a Static Electrical Generator.

Latest Curtiss "Scooter," Driven by Aerial Propeller and 400 H.P. Airplane Motor. Draws but 8 Inches Water at 50 Miles Per Hour.



Below—Latest Electric Motor Car Being Built by the Thousand in Germany. It Is Run by a Dry Battery Renewable Every 4 Hours. Speed 17½ Miles Per Hour.

Above—Senator Harding, Republican Nominee for President, Delivering His Phonograph Speech Being Recorded by the Apparatus Shown. His Subject Was "Americanism."

At Left—Wonderful Electric Drilling Machine Boring 60 Holes at One Time in the Top, Bottom and Two Ends of Automobile Engine Bloc.

Below—Mr. J. Larsen (with Cane) and All Metal Monoplane, in Which He Recently Broke the American Nonstop Record by Flying 1200 Miles.

The Whirling Eye

By THOMAS W. BENSON and CHARLES S. WOLFE

NIGHT had fallen over the big institution as I crossed the connecting bridge between ward seven and ward six. The chill breath of late autumn swept thru the partly open bridge, and I shivered as I strode hastily toward the door of six. Just that ward to do, and my evening rounds were over, my day's work practically done.

As resident of this big state asylum for the insane it was my duty to make daily inspection of the wards, interview the patients, listen to complaints from them and receive the reports of the captains in charge of the wards.

It was my most irksome task. Nine out of every ten patients had some grievance to pour into my ear, and possibly seven out of the nine were purely imaginary, specters of poor, disordered brains. It is truly remarkable how much the average insane man can imagine has happened to him in a day.

The captain of six met me at the door. "Complaints run high tonight, Peters?" I asked with feigned sternness in my voice. I pitied this overworked man who had charge of the institution's receiving ward. Getting them all as they came in, the good, bad and the violent, he averaged a particularly nasty lot of patients, and his position was far from being a sinecure.

Peters shrugged at my question. "Usual run, I guess, doctor," he replied, resignedly. "So many brutally beaten, so many starved and a few tortured."

I laughed. "Restraints?" I queried, perfunctorily, for it was my business to know how many patients had been forcibly prevented from injuring someone or themselves.

"Four," replied the captain; "absolutely necessary, of course."

"Of course," I agreed, absently, and moved on to the inspection.

"And Rose, Those People Are Centuries Ahead of Us." His Voice Sank to a Whisper. "Night After Night I Watched Them; Night After Night I Followed Them Thru the Streets of Their Cities, at Their Daily Tasks, As They Assembled in Their Big Open-Air Auditoriums."

"And, Rose, There's a 'Girl' Up There I Want. I Never Had One Down Here, You Know . . . "

It was over at last. I paused before the door of the last of the rooms, or cells, call them what you please. "This one is unoccupied, isn't it?" I asked, for it had been empty for the last week.

"No," replied Peters. "There's a new one in there. Man named Mehlman, brought in this morning."

"Oh!" I replied, and moved toward the door. "How is he?"

"Quiet," returned the captain. "Unless he turns nasty, I'll send him over to eleven this week yet, with your permission."

"If you think he's fit," I rejoined, carelessly. "Needn't wait for me here, captain; run along and get your supper. I'll let myself out."

Peters looked his relief. "Thanks," he said, laconically, and started down the hall. I drew my keys and opened the door of the new patient's room.

Years of work in institutions for the insane have rendered me very nearly immune to surprise. In asylums the unexpected happens with such monotonous regularity that your veteran is only thrown off poise with difficulty. But the shock that awaited me behind that plain and unprepossessing cell door was too much for my *sang froid*. It will live in my memory as the greatest jolt that my nervous system was ever called upon to assimilate.

As I flung open the door, a short, stockily built man of perhaps my own age rose from the cot on which he had been sitting. "Good evening, Doctor Rose," he said, with a quiet, pleasant smile. "I thought I recognized your voice."

I reeled limply against the door-frame, my very soul shaken with horror. "Mehlman!" I cried, my voice scarcely recognizable in my own ears. "My God! What are you doing here?"

The man grinned. "On my vacation," he bantered, good-naturedly. "Retired. By the alienists. I can't tell you for just how long." He waved his hand airily. "Stay indefinite."

My tongue seemed to function reluctantly. "What's the matter with you?" I managed to articulate, inanely enough.

Mehlman laughed shortly. "Crazy," he rejoined. "Rather obvious, don't you think?"

"Great heavens, man!" I gasped, horrified. "How can you jest?"

"Well," he retorted calmly, "better jest than weep, don't you think? Take your medicine standing up—all that sort of thing."

Slowly my wits were returning. I began to regard him narrowly, looking for the little tell-tale signs that betray the demented to the practised observer; those little breaks and slips that stamp a man who is to all intents and purposes as sane as you or I, as, in truth, out of his mind.

"Well, are you?" I asked deliberately, and waited tensely for the reply. For this question, put to an average insane man, will bring forth a gushing torrent of indignant denial and self-pity.

But no emotional outburst followed. Instead, Mehlman regarded me steadily, quizzically. "I don't know, old man," he said finally. "I'm not sure myself. Likely as not I am. For that matter, I've always thought that we all are to an extent. But if you mean in the conventional sense of the term, I don't believe that I am. It is for you, not me, to answer that question. Three of the State's best have assured me that I am. At their salary, they shouldn't make mistakes."

I winced. It was a quiet jab at my

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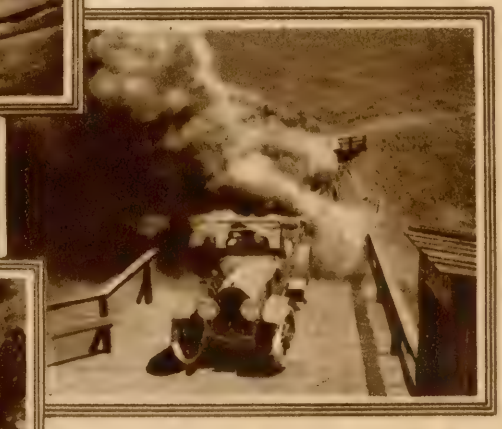
MOVIE THRILLERS

William Duncan Is Again Shown Here in the House of Knives. The Knives Are Placed Thru the Ceiling of a Room so That Their Sharp, Wicked Points Project. Gradually, the Entire Ceiling Is Moved Downward by Complex Mechanisms. The Knives Slowly Approach His Body. He Extends His Feet so as to Stop the Knife Onrush and the Descending Ceiling Momentarily. The Diabolical Fiends Thinking That They Had Ended Their Victim's Life, Shut Off the Power. When Bill Sees That the Knife Descent Has Been Successfully Checked, He Simply Bends the Knives and Escapes.

Probably No More Fascinating Story Has Ever Appeared, Nor a More Thrilling Scene Rendered, Than That in "The Juggernaut," Where a Full Size Railroad Train Leaps from a Rickety Bridge (After the Piling Had Collapsed Under Its Weight) into a River. Actors Were Actually in the Train When It Leaped from the Trestle, and Fought Their Way Out of the Cars into Six Feet of Water in the River.

One of the Favorite Methods of Torture and Death in the "Movies" Is the Buzz-saw Arrangement Shown Above Wherein the Old Sawing Machine Gradually Draws Its Victim into a Certain Death. But, Never Fear; the Hero Will Surely Be Snatched from Death's Clutches, without Even Having His Hair Singed.

A Death-defying Leap in an Auto Across a Broken Trestle Is Depicted Above. The Auto Is Given a Very Good Start Due to a Steep Incline Which Leads Down to the Trestle. The Latter Was so Arranged That the Auto Was Sure to Leap the Air Gap Between the Two Ends, Much Like Those at Amusement Resorts. Even Then the Impact Created Great Anxiety When the Trestle Started to Sway, and the Auto Hesitated a Moment—but Luckily for the Driver, It Proceeded Safely on Its Way.



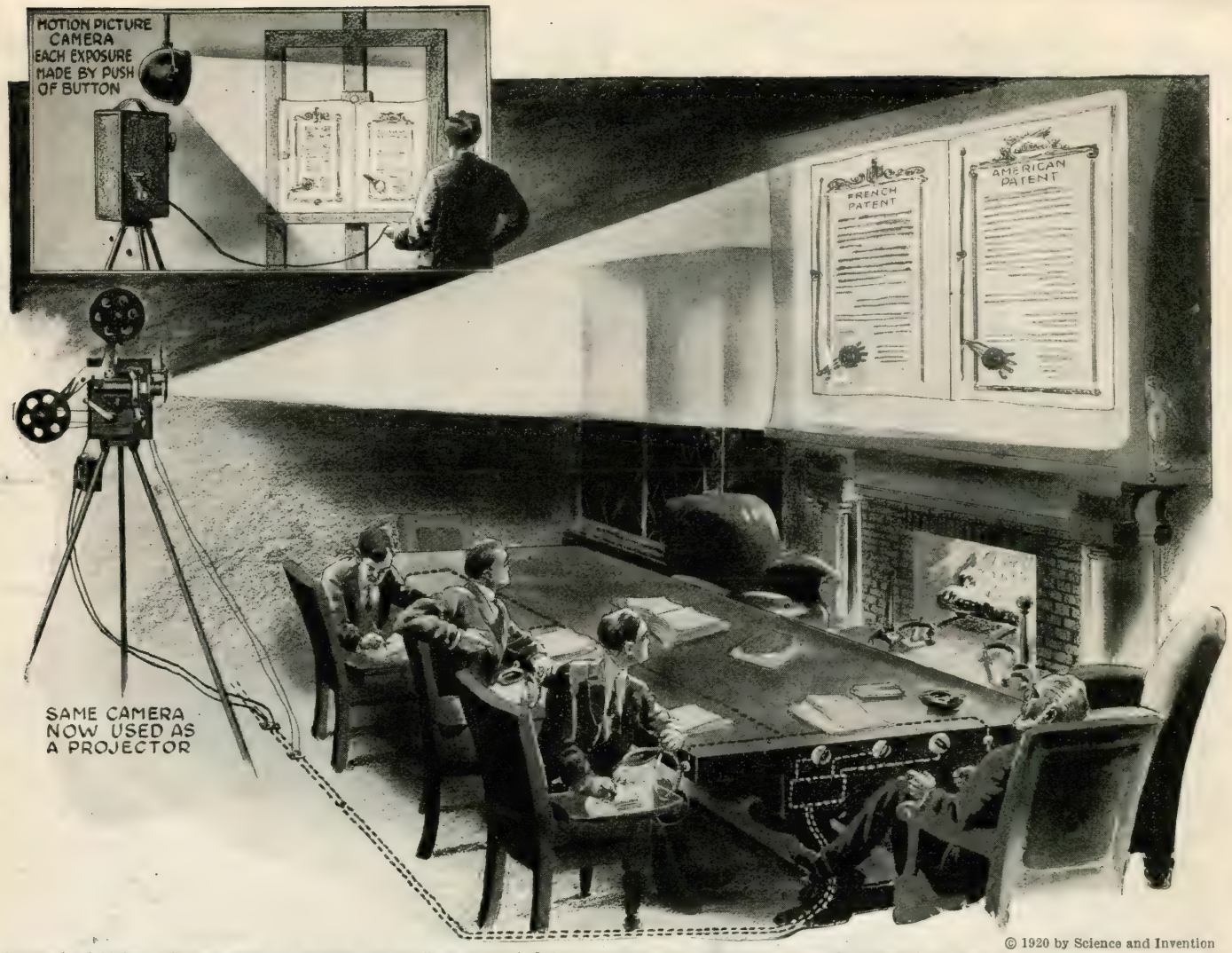
William Duncan Again Furnishes Us with a "Thriller" by Traveling Across a Burning Bridge, at Full Speed in an Auto. The Bridge Was so Arranged That It Would Collapse Immediately Upon His Trip Across It. If It Had Collapsed Beforehand, Bill Would Undoubtedly Have Been One of These "Heroes" of the Movie World of Days Gone By.

Antonio Marino, in the "Invisible Hand," Produces Some Stunts Which Are Not at All Short of Miraculous! Above He Is Seen Tied to a Ledge While the Diver Attempts His Rescue from a Submarine Cave. The Instant the Glass Was Broken, the Submarine Cave Filled with Water. Simultaneously, the Diver's Life Lines and Air Hose Were Cut, so That It Meant a Mad Rush for the Shore Entrance Before the Onrushing Waters. The Cave Shown Was Actually Constructed at Great Expense, at the Low Water Line and the Movies Taken at High Tide, Insuring an Effective Flooding at the Opportune Moment.

"Bill" Duncan, as His Favorites Call Him, Playing in the "Silent Avenger," Is Shown Here Executing a Very Difficult Stunt. In His Escape from Gangsters, He Leaps to the Vanes of a Revolving Windmill. He Is Carried Aloft, Clinging to the Structure, and Suddenly Releases Himself to Go Flying Thru Space Several Hundred Feet into a Net Stretched as Shown. Of Course, the "Movie Fans" Never See the Net, but Even so, the Leap Is Fraught with Danger.

Comedy Could Very Often Be Transformed into Tragedy and Scenes Such as This, in Which a Genuine, Honest-to-goodness Automobile with Three Occupants Plunges from a Dock. It Is Necessary, of Course, for the Occupants to Free Themselves Before the Auto Turns Over Upon Them, as Otherwise Death by Drowning, Unless Speedy Assistance Presented Itself, Would Occur.

—Photos Courtesy Vitagraph Film Co.


MOTION PICTURE CAMERA EACH EXPOSURE MADE BY PUSH OF BUTTON
FRENCH PATENT
AMERICAN PATENT
SAME CAMERA NOW USED AS A PROJECTOR

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Instead of Using Photographs of Books, Legal Papers and Other Documents, the Idea Here Suggested by the Author Is to Make Use of the Standard Motion Picture Camera in Such a Way That Practically Anyone Can, with the Proper Arrangements Made at Libraries, Photograph Many Hundred Pages in a Few Hours on the Small Film of the "Movie" Camera. These Small Pictures Can Afterward Be Flashed Up in the Library or Study Room, Lecture Halls, Etc., and Discussions Held on the Subjects in Question. A Clever Arrangement of Interlocking Push-Buttons Is Suggested by the Author, Whereby the Next Picture Cannot Be Flashed Upon the Screen Until Everyone Present Has Closed His "Release" Push-Button.

"Movie" Camera Copies Books and Legal Papers

By O. C. ROOS

PROLOGUE.

A PUBLIC library "photostat-room" in 1925. Place—Any up-to-date large city of over 20,000.

Dramatis Personae—An engineer, a promoter and their two legal advisers.

Properties—One film camera "snapping" 60 pages a minute, when worked by cable or bulb control; in its new rôle of photographing rare records at library by an operator turning pages.

* * *

First Lawyer to Engineer—"You say, George, that we can take these things as fast, or faster than they can turn the pages?"

Engineer—"Yes, it's certainly saved me hundreds of dollars personally in one year, just to be able to come here and have photographed, or *do it myself,* a whole book in from ten minutes to half an hour."

Promoter—"I wish I had seen the possibilities of this thing five years ago. It beats any lecture circuit subscription scheme I ever met with. Why, it must cost next to nothing to record a whole patent which is *out-of-print,* thru competitors' efforts in keeping it *bought up.* That's an old dodge, you know."

Promoter's Lawyer—"It costs about 1 cent per unit exposure, including development and printing, and this is a very high estimate."

Engineer (watching operator "snap-snap-snap" bulb as he turns pages of *evidence* taken from patent records in library)—"The beauty of the thing is the compactness of the result. Ten feet of film and close to thirty exposures, each of two pages! Then you get at least a 12-fold linear magnification on a study screen, when you project your film with a 20-foot throw."

Promoter—"But what is the size of your picture at that distance?"

Engineer—"Well, to be very conservative, say 20 by 16 inches. Small print type is about ⅜ inch high at that distance."

First Lawyer—"You'll see for yourself when we go to the club and examine this evidence on the screen over our cigars, how easy it is to study it at leisure, and manipulate it."

Second Lawyer—"I'm surprised the film doesn't burn up when we lawyers dawdle over the fine points in the patent claims we're trying to break."

Engineer—"Well, you see, it's a fact that even in 1920 there were films which could be used on Mazda lamps, projecting say this documentary positive 60 feet, with a five by four foot picture for half an hour, without harming the film, even to the extent of warping it!"

First Lawyer—"That gives plenty of time to make our notes and then we really don't have to keep the current on when we're discussing a mooted point."

Engineer—"Here comes our film. 640 pages and 10 feet of it! Costs about $1.00 Well, it's certainly a great convenience. Now we're off for the club."

ACT 1.

Mise en Scene—Exhibit or projection room of any first class professional club, in same city as the Prologue. It might perhaps be in the library or a branch thereof.

Each chair is arranged so as to give an intimate atmosphere and yet a clear, uninterrupted view of the screen. Pear-shaped, hand-push switches are hanging at the chair positions. The club projection room operator takes the film from the engineer and inserts it in the projector—then darkens room, leaving the observers by themselves.

Promoter—"Well, I can grasp the *modus operandi* of everything here, except those push switches near each chair. Will we use them?"

Engineer—"Probably not, as we are more particularly interested in a single page to-night than in *series-groups,* you know. That is, a party of a certain number of persons, say five, would be given five

(*Continued on page* 540)

Argon—The New-Old Gas

By E. W. DAVIDSON

How This Laziest of All Elements in the Air We Breathe Has at Last Been Put to Work to Help Light the World

ONE of the most useless of the constituent elements of the air we breathe was turned to a highly valuable use for mankind when argon gas was first injected into incandescent lamp bulbs. By filling lamps with this gas, which is among the laziest of all gases, and by observing certain precautions, the efficiency of the lamp thus made was greatly increased. Furthermore, argon gas has helped the larger sizes of incandescents up to the huge 1500 watt lamp to displace arc lamps for street lighting purposes.

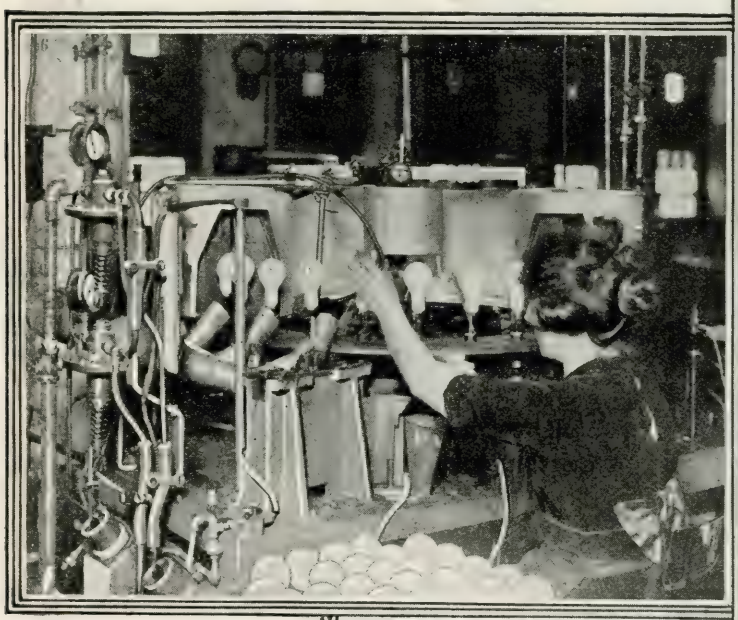
Sir William Ramsay first discovered argon in 1894 which he found to constitute about one per cent of the atmosphere. By this discovery he filled out one of the "blanks" in the chemical periodic system. Previously it has been noted that nitrogen extracted from the atmosphere was heavier than nitrogen produced by chemical process. The search for an explanation of this led to the discovery of argon. But he found absolutely no practical use for the new gas. For 20 years this valuable element was permitted to continue in its happy state of desuetude.

Nobody used argon until Dr. Irving Langmuir in the Research Laboratory of the General Electric Company at Schenectady discovered the increased efficiency to be gained in incandescent lamps by filling them with inert gas instead of merely making them vacuous. He used both nitrogen and argon.

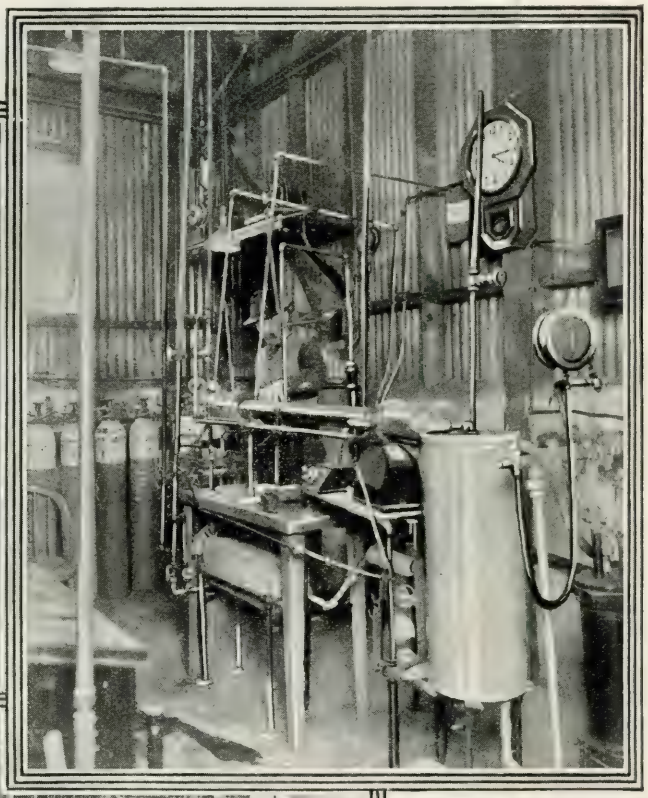
Nitrogen was promptly put to use in lamps because it is comparatively easy to extract so prevalent an element from air, but nobody used any argon on a large scale until about 1914. At lamp factories the oxygen is thoroly removed by passing the mixed gases thru a tubular furnace nearly filled with copper filings at red heat, and about 90 per cent of the nitrogen is extracted in another furnace. Then the argon, about 90 per cent pure, is injected into lamp bulbs.

The very inertness which once stamped argon as absolutely useless has proved to be its valuable quality. The facts that it is relatively stubborn in its refusal to serve as a conductor of heat and that its density discourages the evaporation of tungsten filaments even at tremendous heat, have therefore made it possible to increase the temperature of lamp filaments with a consequent increase in lamp efficiency beyond the point which was the previous maximum.

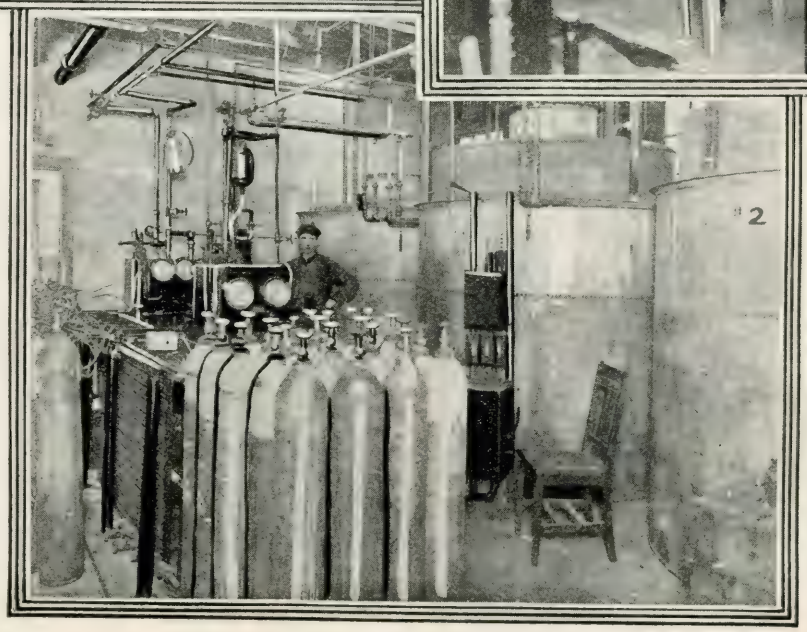
Altho it has not been economically advantageous to use argon in the lowest current lamps, its use renders the higher current lamps more brilliant and efficient. Large argon-filled lamps equal in efficiency the magnetite arc, so as to serve for any sort of street lighting except to produce the brilliant glare needed for "white ways." Argon-filled incandescents, which can be mounted in various sizes on a single circuit to meet varying needs as arcs cannot be, and whose glow never flickers as does the glare of arcs, have establisht their supremacy for general outdoor lighting as well as for other medium and high-power illumination needs. Thus argon gas has at last been put to work.—*Photos courtesy General Electric Co.*



Above:—Here the Lamps Are Thoroly Exhausted on the Turn-table Which Carries Them Thru the Oven. As They Come Out (Left) They Are Cooled by Three Blasts of Air. The Argon Is Injected From Beneath When the Lamp Reaches the Position at the Operator's Left Hand. The Bulb Is Sealed and Ready for Use—an "Argon Filled" Lamp.



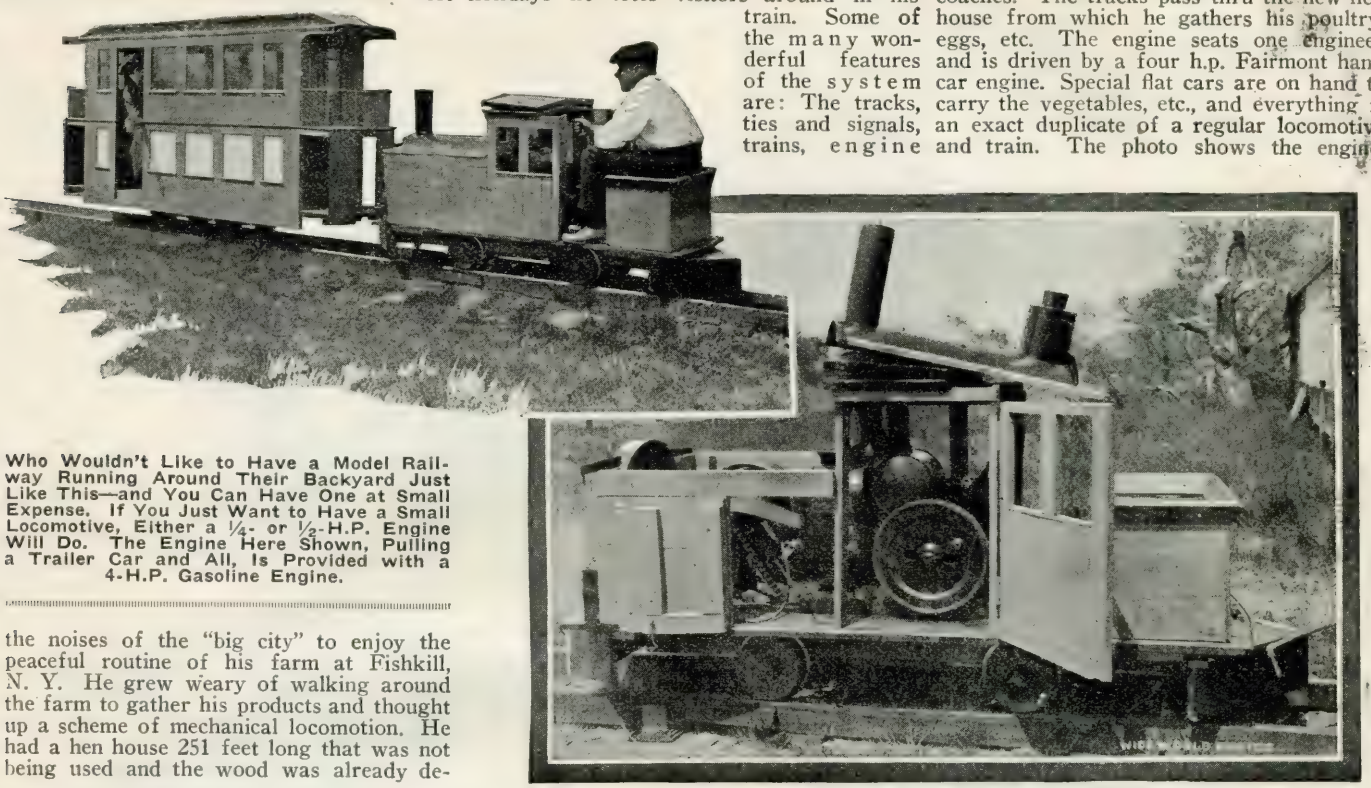
Above:—First Step in the Lamp Factory. Here the Approximate 30 Per Cent of Oxygen in Commercial Argon Shipt in the Cylinders at the Left Is Burned Out in a Hydrogen Flame, Leaving Argon and Nitrogen.



The Purified Argon Is Pumped Into the Big Gasmeters from Which It Is Drawn Into the Cylinders. These Are Connected to the Machine Which Injects the Argon Into the Lamps. (At Left.) The Fact That It Is Relatively Stubborn in Its Refusal to Serve as a Conductor of Heat Has Made It Possible to Increase the Temperature of Lamp Filaments with a Consequent Increase in Lamp Efficiency.

All Aboard! On Model Railroad

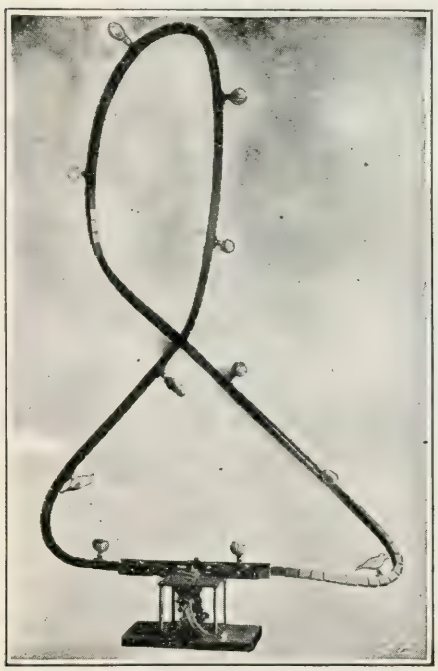
EVER feel like getting away from things in general and go back to your boyhood pranks? That's what a New York broker felt like and he did it in style—a style which you and I can follow and get a world of fun from. Mr. Cecil Gage was the former New York broker who left the noises of the "big city" to enjoy the peaceful routine of his farm at Fishkill, N. Y. He grew weary of walking around the farm to gather his products and thought up a scheme of mechanical locomotion. He had a hen house 251 feet long that was not being used and the wood was already deteriorating. He dismantled the hen house and from the wood alone he built a miniature railroad, tracks, car and engine that now runs around the entire acreage of his farm. During the week he travels around his farm gathering the products and on holidays he totes visitors around in his train. Some of the many wonderful features of the system are: The tracks, ties and signals, trains, engine and tender are built of wood. The passenger cars are capable of carrying two passengers with seats built in them; one double-decker car is five and one-half feet high with regulation glass windows built after the fashion of the foreign railroad coaches. The tracks pass thru the new hen house from which he gathers his poultry, eggs, etc. The engine seats one engineer and is driven by a four h.p. Fairmont hand car engine. Special flat cars are on hand to carry the vegetables, etc., and everything is an exact duplicate of a regular locomotive and train. The photo shows the engine.



Who Wouldn't Like to Have a Model Railway Running Around Their Backyard Just Like This—and You Can Have One at Small Expense. If You Just Want to Have a Small Locomotive, Either a ¼- or ½-H.P. Engine Will Do. The Engine Here Shown, Pulling a Trailer Car and All, Is Provided with a 4-H.P. Gasoline Engine.

"Live Wire" Window Display

It being a well-known fact that in advertising that light and a movable object will always attract attention, especially if the movable objects can be so arranged that they will move in the out of the ordinary way, and also to have more than one object to observe.



Moving Electric Lights, Such as in This Display, Fitted with a Remarkable Flexible Shaft and Guide Frame, Provides Entirely New Possibilities in Show-Window Trimming.

Therefore, the combining of these four features in such a manner that the device can be used in practically every field of commercial enterprise; by simply placing that particular object in transparent miniature form over the lighted bulbs and made to travel in any position that the flexible guideway has been placed as clearly shown in the photographs. It being quite evident that the guideway can be readily concealed, easily handled, as the same can be laid, placed, hung, swung or suspended in any position to suit the conditions.

Then if we are to advertise say in an automobile supply store a tire, can of oil, spark plug, etc., is placed over the lighted bulb in miniature form of a transparent material—or in a grocery store a can of peas, box of biscuits, etc.—or in a tobacco store various brands of cigars or cigarettes, etc., etc.—in a music store, various records, etc.—and in this way we could go thru the entire list of our daily wants, all being brought before us in miniature, illuminated and moving form.

As a toy it could be used on a Christmas tree and birds and other objects of that character placed over the bulbs and made to travel in and around the tree, thereby causing a very beautiful as well as novel effect, and an object of interest to both young and old. The devices can also be used as a scenic railway, roller coaster, loop the loop, ad infinitum.

The whole effect is accomplisht in the most simplest manner by means of a suitable flexible slotted housing or guideway, a flexible shaft carrying the various objects and the electrical conductors, the said flexible shaft being driven by a pair of friction rollers from a small electric motor.

EDWARD A. DIETERICH.

Foot Warmer For Police

This electric foot warmer is designed for outdoor service and makes it possible, in winter weather, greatly to relieve outdoor workers obliged to remain in one spot for long periods of time from the discomfort of cold feet. Investigation as to how this relief could be furnished by means of an electric heater resulted in the development of an electric foot warmer different from anything previously on the market.

The amount of power consumed can be regulated to 200, 100 and 50 watts respectively, at 120 volts, for the different positions of the switch. Six feet of cord with a snap switch is supplied with each warmer. The rubber insulated cable enters the device through a bell-mouthed waterproof fitting mounted in the middle of one end.

Electric Foot Warmer For Policemen and Others Stationed at Outdoor Posts. The Device Is Thoroly Water-proof.

The resistance which constitutes the main element of the heater is of the slotted ribbon type distributed uniformly over the entire surface. The ribbons are assembled between two plates of built-up mica 0.025 inch thick, cemented together to form a unit.

—*Photo courtesy Westinghouse E. & M. Co.*

The Romance of Tungsten

By E. W. DAVIDSON

This Hardest and Heaviest of Metals Was Brittle and Therefore Unworkable in Its Pure State for More Than a Century After Its Discovery Until Dr. W. D. Coolidge Made It Ductile. Tungsten Saves This Nation Alone a Billion Dollars on Its Annual Electric Light Bill and Otherwise Benefits Mankind.

A CASUAL look at the filament of the incandescent lamp in your library or at the tiny spark coil contacts on your automobile brings no suggestion of the romance of science which lies back of those devices. It is the Romance of "Tungsten," one of the heaviest of metals, a metal nearly 140 years old, but which resisted the efforts of mankind to make use of it in its pure state for about 130 years.

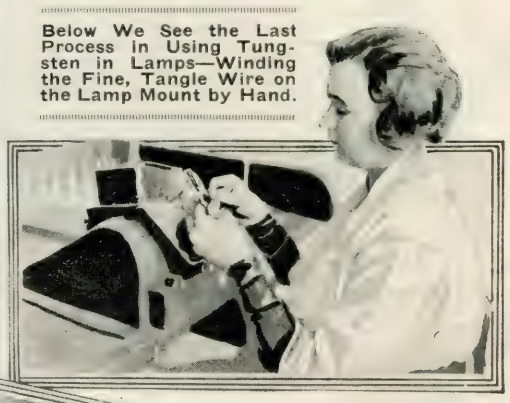
But the service pure tungsten has rendered the world in the last decade since it was "conquered" is almost too great for calculation. Tungsten in its various forms reduced America's electric light bill a billion dollars a year and more than doubled the usefulness of the incandescent lamp. Ductile tungsten kept the automobile industry alive during the war. It helped make possible the Coolidge X-ray tube with tungsten targets which tremendously increased the value of the X-ray machine to mankind. With it the pliotron was built so that wireless telephony could be developed to a useful and dependable point. With it phonograph needles are being made more than 50 times as good as the steel and the fiber needles, heretofore the best that could be produced.

Tungsten bullets might have served in the recent war as projectiles hard enough to pierce the heaviest armor the Germans could put on their aircraft, for a few were made to prove their usefulness in that capacity, but the plan to use them was given up after a less expensive way to accomplish the result was discovered.

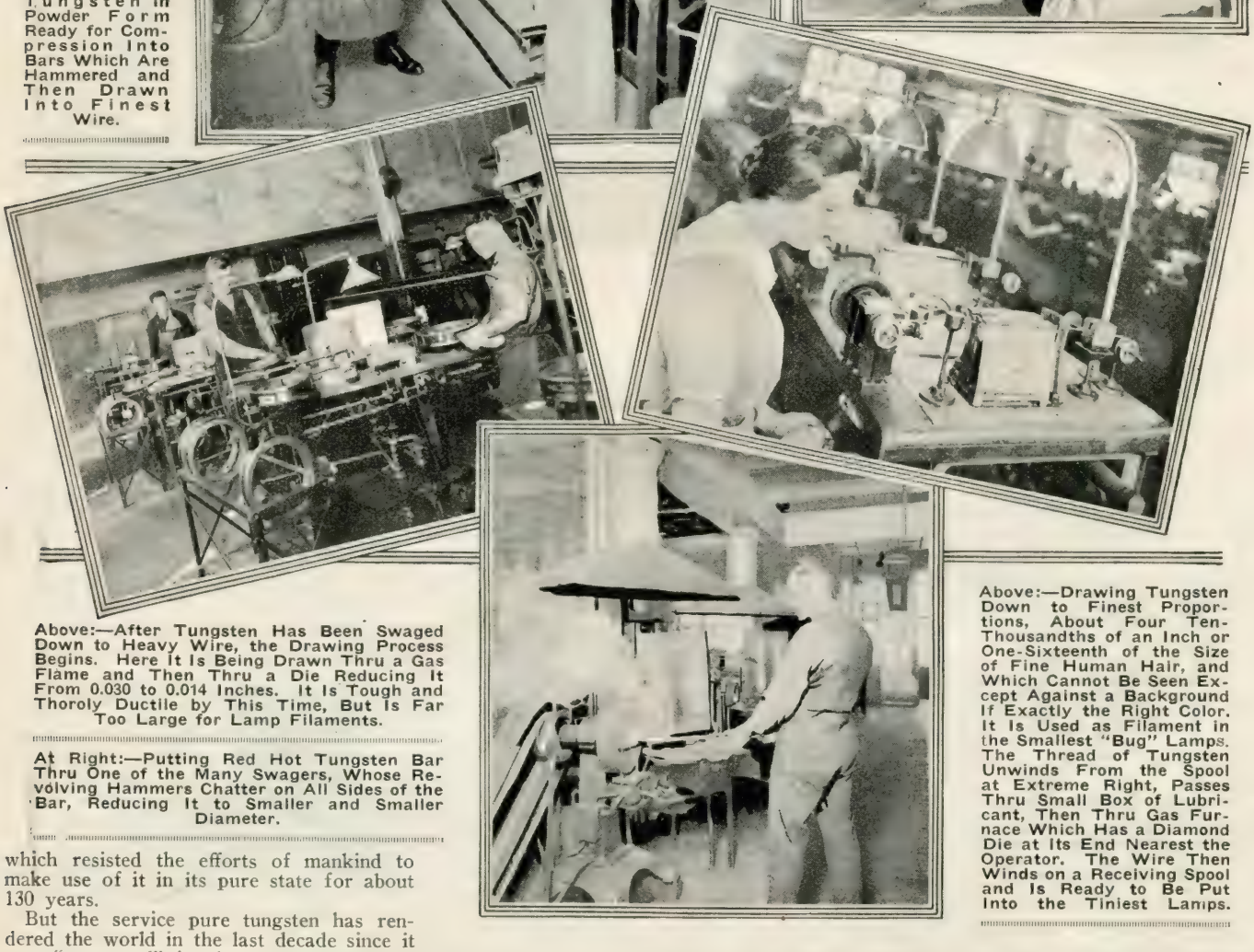
Before the war only a few thousand tons of tungsten ore were mined in all the world and the price of raw tungsten ranged around 90 cents a pound; but with the war came a tremendous demand for tool steel, hard enough to work at high speed even tho red hot. Tungsten was required as an alloy to make such steel.

The price rose steeply when the supply diminished before the sudden demand until it reached $7 or $8 a pound. The world's production in 1918 mounted to 35,800 tons. The control over the sources of it was 59 per cent American, and 35 per cent British. The price and production slumped with the end of the war until today raw tungsten can be bought for a little over a dollar a pound.

Right:—One Step in Making Lamp Filaments. Squirting Pulverized Tungsten Ore Into 2,200 Fahrenheit Degree Furnace Which Removes Oxygen and Produces Pure Tungsten in Powder Form Ready for Compression Into Bars Which Are Hammered and Then Drawn Into Finest Wire.



Below We See the Last Process in Using Tungsten in Lamps—Winding the Fine, Tangle Wire on the Lamp Mount by Hand.



Above:—After Tungsten Has Been Swaged Down to Heavy Wire, the Drawing Process Begins. Here It Is Being Drawn Thru a Gas Flame and Then Thru a Die Reducing It From 0.030 to 0.014 Inches. It Is Tough and Thoroly Ductile by This Time, But Is Far Too Large for Lamp Filaments.

At Right:—Putting Red Hot Tungsten Bar Thru One of the Many Swagers, Whose Revolving Hammers Chatter on All Sides of the Bar, Reducing It to Smaller and Smaller Diameter.

Above:—Drawing Tungsten Down to Finest Proportions, About Four Ten-Thousandths of an Inch or One-Sixteenth of the Size of Fine Human Hair, and Which Cannot Be Seen Except Against a Background If Exactly the Right Color. It Is Used as Filament in the Smallest "Bug" Lamps. The Thread of Tungsten Unwinds From the Spool at Extreme Right, Passes Thru Small Box of Lubricant, Then Thru Gas Furnace Which Has a Diamond Die at Its End Nearest the Operator. The Wire Then Winds on a Receiving Spool and Is Ready to Be Put Into the Tiniest Lamps.

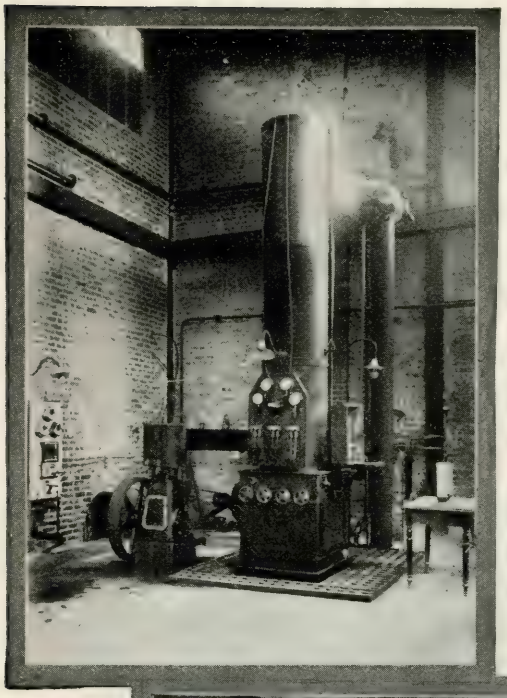
TUNGSTEN MADE DUCTILE.

Most of the adaptions for tungsten are due to a discovery made by Dr. W. D. Coolidge, of the General Electric Company.

(*Continued on page* 558)

SYNTHETIC AMMONIA

By LUCIEN FOURNIER



Above: Apparatus for the Production of Nitrogen at the Plant of Georges Claude, Montereau, France.

Liquefaction of Ammonia. To the Left May Be Seen the Attendant Who Watches the Electric Current Which Maintains the Catalyzer at the Desired Temperature. To the Right Is Seen the Cylinder in Which Is Received the Liquid Ammonia; While In the Center Is the Glass Gage Thru Which the Liquid Ammonia Falls.

ORDINARILY ammonia is produced in large quantities by Nature during the process of decomposition of organic matter. Industry generally extracts it from waste waters and gas plant waters which are charged with ammonia during the distillation of coke. This distillation is possible for the reason of the easy separation of ammonia from water steam. However, it would decidedly be much more advantageous to produce ammonia by synthesis thru the separation of the two elements, nitrogen and hydrogen.

The German organization, *Badische Anilin,* while exploiting the patents of Haber, has for several years manufactured synthetic ammonia. Mr. Georges Claude, already known thruout the entire world for his wonderful work with liquid air, has enriched science by the discovery of new elements destined to give them a very economic industrial character.

Previous to this, however, as well as to another Frenchman, Charles Tellier, who is known as the "Father of the Cold," there is still another Frenchman to whom the entire world gives thanks for one of the most useful of discoveries. For this reason it is but natural that he has earned the sobriquet of "Father of Synthetic Ammonia."

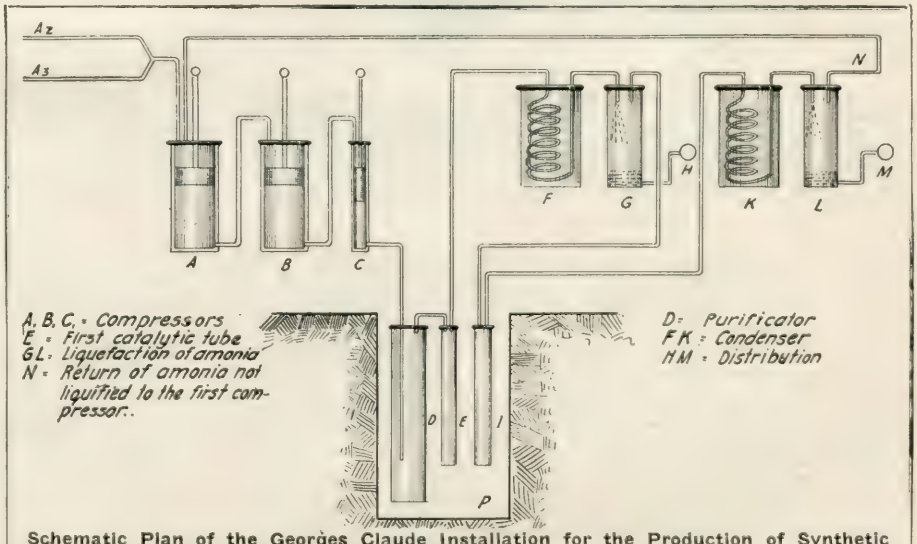
TWO GASES REQUIRED TO MAKE AMMONIA.

In order to manufacture ammonia it is necessary to make use of two gases: nitrogen and hydrogen. The first is obtained from the air of the ordinary atmosphere at low temperature after which it is placed in tanks under pressure similar to oxygen. As for the production of hydrogen this can be accomplisht by several methods, viz.: by an electrolytic process which furnishes a very pure gas but, however, at a cost too great for practical purposes; by the reaction of an acid upon iron or zinc; generally, however, it is secured from an inferior gas or from a water gas, so that it is possible to procure it at plants where coke is manufactured and where it is mixed with other gases. However, it is necessary to bear in mind that the hydrogen gas must be very pure, and that in order to furnish ammonia in large quantities it must sequently be itself manufactured at a *low cost.* The two gases are, therefore, manufactured in proper proportions, after which they are submitted to a very high pressure. The mixture is then directed thru the catalyzer at a reasonable temperature and from which is generated ammonia vapors which are condensed and thus liquefied. After passing thru the condenser the result is liquid ammonia.

The German company, *Badische Anilin Werke,* which previously manufactured large quantities of ammonia, utilized pressures of 200 atmospheres. This is a very satisfactory industrial result since it was by this means that the liquefaction of air was obtained. It was here that Georges Claude arrived at the conclusion that much greater pressures could be secured without greater expense and by which the synthesis of ammonia could be obtained under very economical conditions. Thus, thanks to the use of a final compressor having a piston of small diameter, it was found that if we use the quantity 2 as the necessary mechanical energy to produce the pressure of 200 atmospheres, the quantity 3 may represent the necessary energy for a pressure of 1000 *atmospheres.* In other words, 1000 additional atmospheres are obtained at an additional expense of only 1/3 of the energy necessary to obtain 200 atmospheres!

It is therefore seen that there exists a direct relation between the temperature under which the catalyzer must be submitted and the pressure. The value of this relation has been placed by Georges Claude by the reaction $Az_2 + 3H_2 = 2AzH_3$. The catalyzer tank fills to a length of 10 centimeters a tube having the length of 80 centimeters and a diameter of 8 millimeters, the latter being heated by electricity. The inventor has stated that while under pressures of 200, 400, 600, 800 and 1000 atmospheres special temperatures are necessary in order that the catalytic phenomena be produced under conditions favorable to large production. However, beginning with 200 atmospheres, the practical temperatures must not be lower than 500 degrees, nor higher than 700°.

(*Continued on page* 561)



Schematic Plan of the Georges Claude Installation for the Production of Synthetic Ammonia: A, B, C—Compressors; P—Well; D—Purificator; E—First Catalytic Tube; I—Second Catalytic Tube; KF—Condenser; LG—Liquefaction of Ammonia; MH—Distribution; N—Return of Ammonia Not Liquefied to the First Compressor.

"Eclipses"--How Caused

By A. M. HARDING, Ph. D.

University of Arkansas

MAN, in ancient times, considered his own little city as the center of the world and his own world the center of the universe. He thought the sun, moon and stars shone for his benefit, and that were it not for him they would have no reason for existence. The sun furnisht him heat and light, the moon serving as its substitute, while the sun was not visible. Every star was supposed to have been placed in the sky for some definite purpose, altho just what this purpose was may not have been evident in every case.

These celestial objects soon became of such importance to man that they were considered as "Gods." In fact, several ancient nations worshipt the sun, moon, and stars. Our attention is called to this fact by the writer of the second book of Kings, who tells us that Josiah, king of Judah, destroyed all those who worshipt the sun, the moon, and all the host of heaven.

Man soon became familiar with the motions of the sun, moon, and stars, but was always thrown into a panic by the appearance of an eclipse, a comet, a meteor, or a shooting star. These phenomena were generally considered as omens of evil.

Even at the present time we find some peoples who believe that when the moon is eclipsed it is fighting with a great dragon. They beat on drums and tin pans in order to frighten the dragon and rescue the moon. Of course, if they keep up the noise for two or three hours, they are sure to succeed.

For the scientific man of today, an eclipse has no terrors. It is a phenomenon which can be predicted years in advance and when it arrives on scheduled time it is just another evidence to him that mathematical law reigns supreme in the universe.

There will be four eclipses in the year 1920, two of the sun, and two of the moon. The data for these eclipses, which are taken from the American Ephemeris, are given below. The time in each case is Central Standard Time.

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON, MAY 2, 1920.

All of the inhabitants of the United States, except those in the extreme northwestern portion, saw the last part of this eclipse. The moon entered the shadow of the earth and the eclipse began at 6:01 p. m The moon went deeper and deeper into the shadow until 7:15 p. m. when the entire disk was obscured. At 8:27 p. m. the moon began to come out of the shadow and at 9:41 p. m. the eclipse ended.

Since the moon must be full when it is eclipsed, it rose at sunset, and those who had a clear view of the eastern horizon saw the moon rise as a round disk with part of its surface obscured by the shadow of the earth.

PARTIAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, MAY 17, 1920.

This eclipse began on May 17, at 10:17 p. m. and ended on May 18, at 2:13 a. m. While we inhabitants of the United States were peacefully slumbering, ignorant of the fact that anything was wrong with the appearance of the sun, the sailors on the Indian Ocean and the people of Australia watched the moon's disk creep over the sun until ninety-seven per cent of its surface was covered up.

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON, OCTOBER 27, 1920.

The moon enters the shadow and the eclipse begins at 6:25 a. m. The total eclipse begins at 7:28 a. m. and ends at 8:54 a. m. The moon leaves the shadow at 9:57 a. m. Since the full moon will set at sunrise it is evident that this eclipse will not be visible in the eastern half of the United States. The first part of the eclipse will be visible in the western portion of North America.

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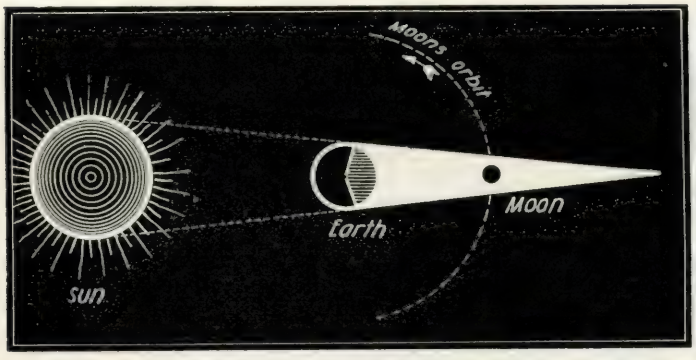
Eclipses of the Sun and Moon Have Caused in Years Gone By, Some of the Greatest Perturbations Among the People of the Earth, As One Can Well Imagine. Probably There Is Not One of Those Instances Which Is More Interesting to Americans Than That of Christopher Columbus and the Indians. Christopher Columbus Used His Knowledge of Eclipses to Free Himself and His Companions From the American Indians, Who Held Him Prisoner and Had Reduced Him Almost to Starvation. He Happened to Remember That an Eclipse of the Moon was Due to Occur On March 1, 1504, and He Told the Indians That He Would "Cause the Moon to Go Out If They Did Not Bring Him Food." They Paid Very Little Attention at First, But When the Moon Disappeared They Brought Him Plenty of Food and Worshipt Him As a "God."

PARTIAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN, NOVEMBER 10, 1920.

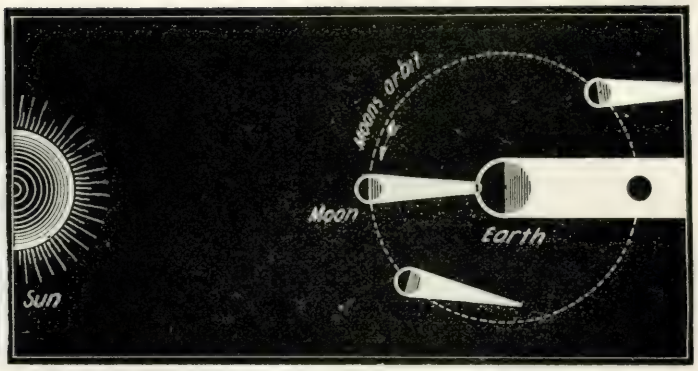
This eclipse which begins at 7:47 a. m. and ends at 11:57 a. m. reaching its maximum (74%) at 9:52 a. m., will be visible in the eastern and north central parts of the United States.

The sun's rays are scattered in every direction thruout space. Some of these are intercepted by the earth and give us light and heat. Thus the earth excludes the sunlight from a small part of space; that is, the earth has a shadow.

Most of us, when we see our shadow on the ground, think of it as something *flat* like a leaf. As a matter of fact a shadow is the *space* from which the light is ex-



In This Illustration We See the Rays of the Sun Cast Upon the Earth. The Side of the Earth Turned Away From the Sun Casts a Black Shadow Out Into Space Which Envelops the Moon Whenever It Enters This Shadow, Causing a Moon Eclipse.



In Its Orbit Around the Earth, the Moon Has Many Phases as Is Well Known. If the Moon Is Directly Between the Sun and the Earth As Shown Above, We Have a Solar Eclipse On Earth. The Shadow of the Moon Is Shown Above in White. It Is Shown in a Few Positions Covering Several Phases of the Moon's Orbit.

cluded by an intervening object. Since the sun is very much larger than the earth, the shadow of the earth will end in a point; that is, it is a cone.

As the earth moves around the sun year after year it is accompanied by its shadow, which, of course, always remains on the side of the earth away from the sun. The shadow moves thru space at the rate of 18½ miles per second but most of us are not aware of its existence except when it passes over some celestial body.

The ancients used to think that the light of the sun was put out every evening and rekindled every morning. In this way they were enabled to account for the alternation of light and darkness on the earth. We know that darkness is due to the fact that we are in the shadow of the earth, and that the succession of night and day is caused by the rotation of the earth which carries us into the shadow every evening and brings us out again every morning.

When we call to mind the fact that this shadow is not something flat which covers the earth like a layer of snow, but that it is a cone whose base is the earth and whose vertex is somewhere out in space in the direction opposite to that of the sun, the questions arise, "How long is this shadow? How far does it reach?" We know that when night comes it is just as dark upstairs as it is downstairs. If we climb to the roofs of our highest buildings we find darkness there. The birds of the air when they fly at night are invisible, no matter how high they may be. Aviators may destroy a city by dropping deadly bombs from a purring aeroplane while they remain invisible, protected by the shadow of the earth. No matter how high they may go they are still in the shadow.

The answer to our question is furnisht by the astronomer. He tells us that the average length of the earth's shadow is 857,000 miles and that its length varies about 14,000 miles on acount of the fact that the earth is not always at the same distance from the sun.

The moon makes a complete circuit around the earth every month and, since the distance to the moon (240,000 miles) is less than the length of the earth's shadow, it may happen that the moon will go into the shadow and be eclipsed. There are, in fact, three possibilities:

(1) The moon may pass above or below the shadow. In this case there is no eclipse.

(2) The moon may go into the shadow but pass so far above or below the center that only a portion of her disk is in the shadow. This is said to be a *partial* eclipse.

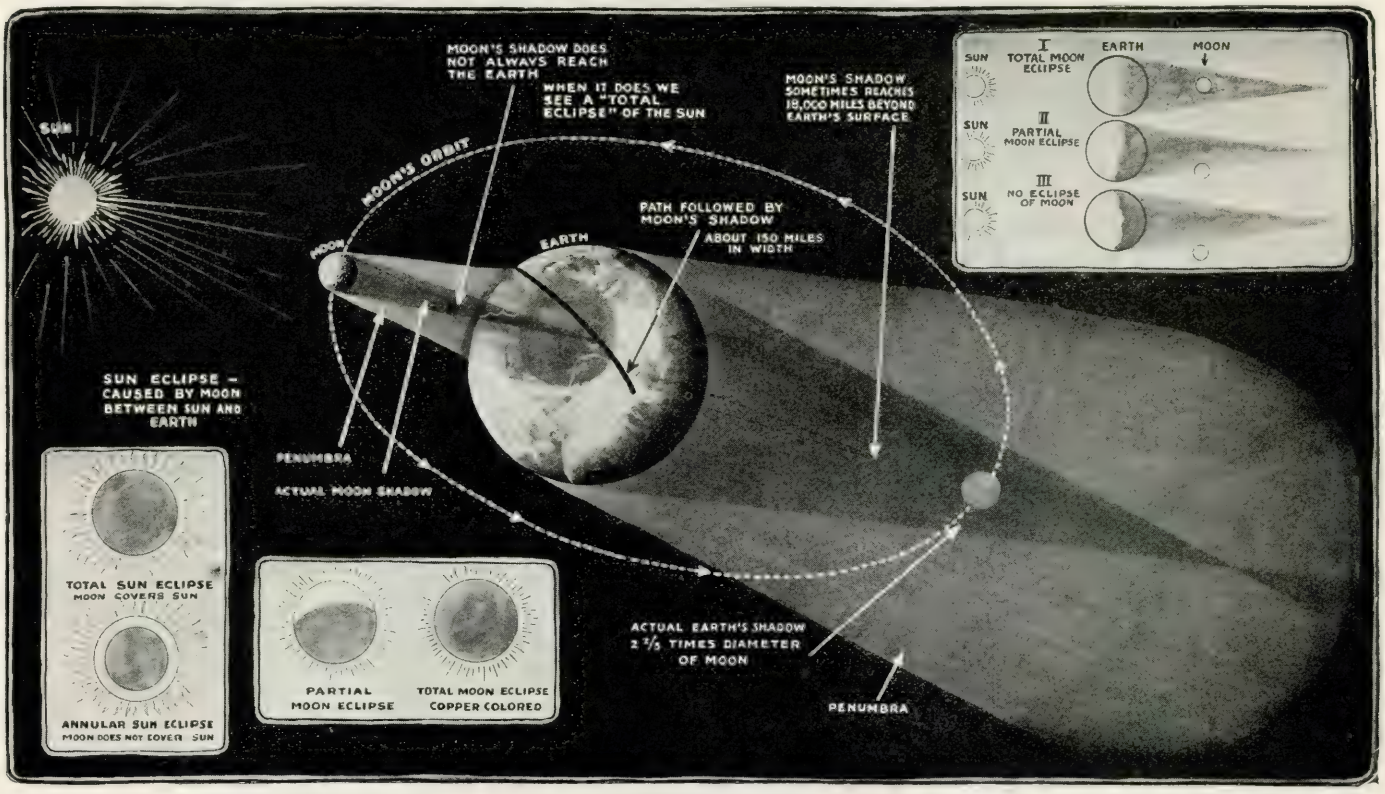
(3) The moon may pass near enough to the center of the shadow that her entire disk is buried in the shadow. This is said to be a *total* eclipse.

Since the moon and the sun are on opposite sides of the earth only at the time of full moon, every lunar eclipse must occur when the moon is full. How amusing is the following statement which once appeared in a daily newspaper at the end of a paragraph describing a recent eclipse of the moon! "This eclipse was especially beautiful since it occurred at the time of full moon."

On May 2, and again on October 27, the moon will pass near the center of the shadow and her entire disk will be shaded.

The diameter of the earth's shadow at the point where the moon crosses it is about 5,700 miles, which is about *two and two-thirds times the diameter of the moon.*

(*Continued on page* 522)


MOON'S SHADOW DOES NOT ALWAYS REACH THE EARTH
WHEN IT DOES WE SEE A "TOTAL ECLIPSE" OF THE SUN
MOON'S SHADOW SOMETIMES REACHES 18,000 MILES BEYOND EARTH'S SURFACE
SUN
MOON'S ORBIT
MOON
EARTH
PATH FOLLOWED BY MOON'S SHADOW
ABOUT 150 MILES IN WIDTH
I TOTAL MOON ECLIPSE
II PARTIAL MOON ECLIPSE
III NO ECLIPSE OF MOON
EARTH
MOON
SUN ECLIPSE – CAUSED BY MOON BETWEEN SUN AND EARTH
PENUMBRA
ACTUAL MOON SHADOW
TOTAL SUN ECLIPSE
MOON COVERS SUN
ANNULAR SUN ECLIPSE
MOON DOES NOT COVER SUN
PARTIAL MOON ECLIPSE
TOTAL MOON ECLIPSE COPPER COLORED
ACTUAL EARTH'S SHADOW 2 ⅔ TIMES DIAMETER OF MOON
PENUMBRA

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The Center Drawing Shows What Happens As the Moon Moves Along Its Orbit Around the Earth. It Shows In Perspective What Has Been Explained In the Two Diagrams on the Top of the Page. Note Particularly That When There Is a Solar Eclipse, the Moon Is Between the Sun and the Earth As Shown In the Illustration. If the Moon Comes Close Enough to the Earth as Sometimes Happens, We Have a Total Eclipse, Because to the Observers Who Are In the Path of the Moon's Shadow, the Sun Is Blotted Out Entirely By the Body of the Moon. If, however, the Distance Between the Moon and the Earth Increases During an Eclipse, the Body of the Moon Is Then Not Large Enough to Cover Up the Entire Disc of the Sun, and for That Reason We Have an Annular Sun Eclipse. (See Left-Hand Insert For Phase of the Solar and Lunar Eclipses Which Are Also Graphically Represented.)

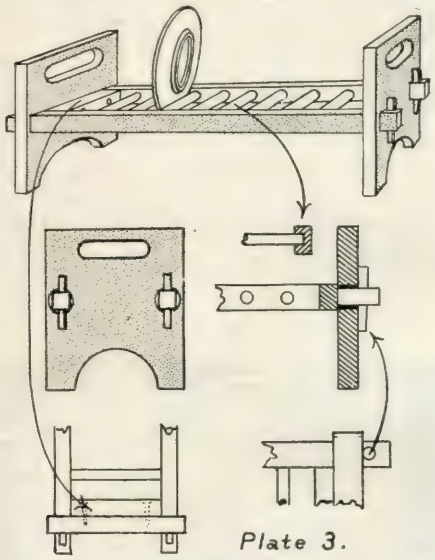
Home Mechanics

Conducted by WILLIAM M. BUTTERFIELD

PLATE RACK FOR THE SINK.

THERE are sinks and sinks, so the admirable device here shown must be constructed in dimensions to fit each particular case. It is devised to meet a particular want common with all wooden draining racks, that of being taken apart for cleaning when incrusted with grease. And this hitherto faulty part of rack construction is important in the eyes of careful housewives, for the so-called grease is not caused altogether by carelessness, but it is an accumulation of soap which it has been impossible to remove in the racks as in those heretofore constructed. This device is made of hard wood, and, fastened with pins that are quickly removed or replaced, can be got at and thoroly cleaned.

It consists of end pieces (8"x8"), rather ornate in the matter of handle holes (3"x1½") and feet; and their 1½" holes bored in the sides (4" from top or bottom with centers 1¼" from the sides) for the tenons on the side rails. There is also a piece of wood screwed with copper screws to the inside of each end piece to keep the

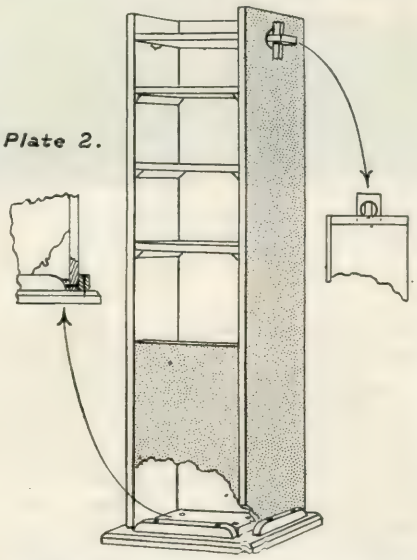


The Principal Advantage of This Useful Plate Rack For Use in the Sink Is That It Can Be Readily Pulled Apart and Thoroly Cleaned, Which Is Not the Case with the Average Rack That Is Nailed or Glued Together Rigidly.

rack from twisting when the side rails are in place. These pieces fit between the rails as shown in cut. The side rails are 1⅜"x 2" and as long as required. The tenons are 1⅜" square by 2" long and have a ⅝" hole bored with centers 1⅛" from shoulder of tenon, the sides being ¾" thick. Round tapered binding pins are used for locking the end pieces. Half inch holes are bored 1¼" apart, part way thru the side rails, to hold the 7/16th" glass rods in the manner illustrated.

MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER RACK.

The tall, narrow, bookcase-like piece of furniture designing illustrated is particularly useful in the porch room of the modern suburban home, but will be found desirable in any room occupied by members of the family who wish to keep their "pet" periodicals in presentable condition. The height of such a rack (5 feet) and its small lateral dimensions (16½"x10½", inside measure) make the building of it important in two respects, namely, a solid reinforced base and a top construction that will hold together when the rack is moved with its load of books. It will be seen from the illustrations that the base is con-



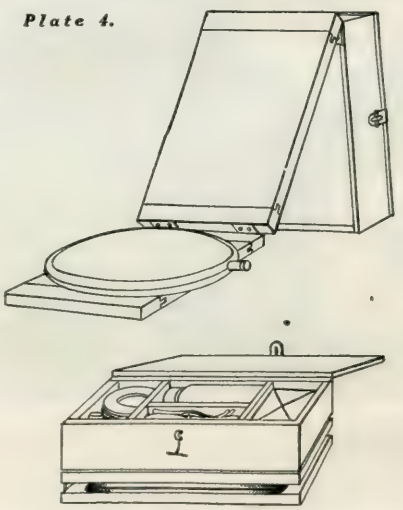
Here's How to Make a Simple, Yet Exceedingly Strong and Useful Magazine or Newspaper Rack, Suitable For That "Odd Corner" on the Porch or in the Reading Room and Library.

structed of a bottom board, a second inside board and three pieces of moulding placed outside of the sides and front, thus forming a deep groove to hold the upper part of the rack. The sides and front are fastened with nails to the second inside piece in the usual manner.

The top is formed by boring one hole (2" in diameter) with center 3" from on the top in the middle of each side. Tenons are then formed (1⅞" wide) on the top piece by sawing four corners out of a board (22½"x10½"), as shown. The top will then be 16½"x10½" with a 1⅞" tenon, 3" long at each end. As the lumber for the rack is ¾" thick, we should allow ⅛" for the binding pins to squeeze the side when put thru the tenons, therefore bore their holes 1" in diameter with centers 1⅛" from the shoulder, or inside corner of the notch. A round tapered pin (3" long and 1" at the big end) forms each pin. The back can be of thin wood (3/16" thick or of that thickness in straw-board, known as "wall-board") and nailed on when the rack is otherwise completed.

BEACH SEAT AND LUNCH BOX COMBINED

A home-made beach seat with a convenient lunch box attachment is shown in the illustration herewith. In the top view



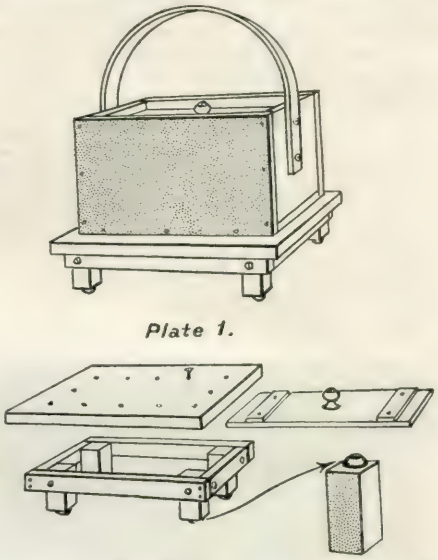
A Beach Seat with a Lunch Box Attachment, Which Everyone Will Find Useful.

this handy device is seen in a conventional position with the box forming a back brace for that part of the seat, and a pneumatic (air-inflated) cushion on the lower section. The three parts are hinged as shown. In the lower view the lunch box is shown open, with the back and seat folded, inclosing the cushion. A shawl-strap or series of straps permanently attached to the box can be used for carrying.

The thickness of the seat should be ⅝ inch, the back ½ inch and the box lumber ⅜ inch. Both the back and seat to be reinforced with end pieces as shown. The ordinary breadboard sold in department and hardware stores will answer for these parts, one ⅝ inch thick and 14 by 20 inches is about the size required. A straw pad of the Japanese variety can be used in place of the pneumatic cushion. If the complete device is painted a light blue, yellow or green, it will have an increased appearance of lightness.

CLEANING KIT-BOX.

Many an ink-stain, drop of paint or grease-spot could have been instantly re-



Here Is Something That You Probably Have Never Thought of—a Neat Little Box Provided with a Handle and Rubber Feet, Not Forgetting a Cover—to Contain Cloths and Chemicals for Cleaning Woodwork, Etc.

moved with the proper use of such an outfit. A little book of first aid recipes for doctoring house or furniture ailments such as the above, or water or heat stains on varnish, for instance, could be a part of the outfit. One can see that a white spot on the dining table, caused by an overheated teapot, would succumb to this treatment very nicely.

In the interim we show a plain device for plain people, one which anyone, plain or otherwise, can make from a common packing box, a wooden barrel hoop and a little odd lumber, all of which can be obtained from a grocer or druggist with very little persuasion or trouble. The idea is to have the outfit box so easily obtained or made that it will be in every home; a kind of national institution for reducing the high physical or mental asset of house-cleaning as we now know it. This original, only institution of its kind is shown in the figure herewith. The object of raising the box on legs is to allow air to circulate beneath it, thus keeping its contents from becoming damp. Rubber chair leg buttons are put on the legs so that the box can be set on wood or tile floors without scratching them. The illustrations show the details.

"Home Electrics"

By G. L. HOADLEY, M. E.

SIMPLE BELL CIRCUITS

THE four main items necessary to put up an electric bell are the bell, the battery or other source of current, the push button, and the wire. The simple bell circuits will be shown first. Figure 1 illustrates the simplest type of circuit. Pressure on push button PB, closes the circuit and current travels as indicated by the arrows from the positive post of the battery to binding-post, P_1 thru the spring contact of the vibrating armature A, and tip of the contact screw F, thence thru the magnet M, and out at binding-post P_2, back to the battery.

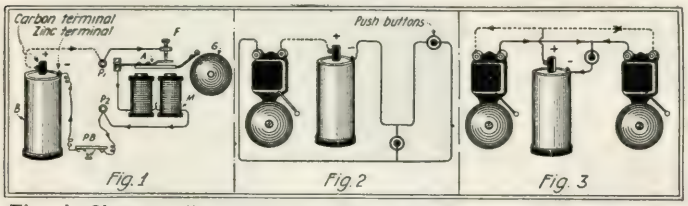


Fig. 1—Showing Dry Battery "B," Push-Button "PB" and Vibrating Bell "M," as Well as Path Taken by Current. Fig. 2—How to Ring One Bell From Two Different Push-Buttons. Fig. 3—Two Bells Rung From One Push-Button.

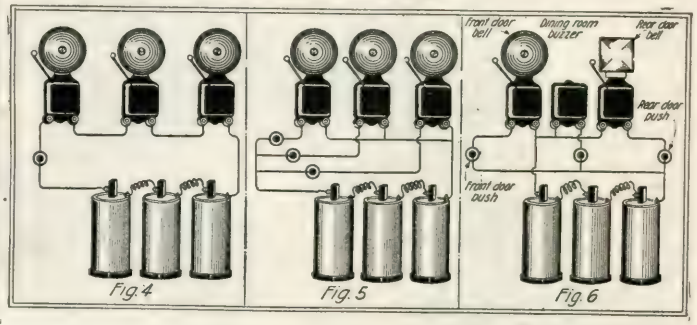


Fig. 4—Shows Several Bells Connected in Series. All of the Bells, Except One, Are Made "Single Stroke." Fig. 5—Shows Three Distinct Bell Circuits Operated From "Common Battery." Fig. 6—Shows Three House Signals on Common Battery.

One Bell and Two Pushes.—In Fig. 2 is shown how a single bell can be made to ring from two (or more) pushes situated in different rooms, for example, or at the front and back doors of a house. Even if both pushes be operated, the bell rings because the carbon or positive terminal is connected to each pusher.

Bells in Multiple.—Fig. 3 shows how two (or more) bells may be rung from one push button. Since the bells are in "parallel" here, the current divides itself between the two bells and larger batteries or more cells are required to supply the extra current needed. Vibrating bells will operate satisfactorily in multiple under these conditions.

Bells in Series.—In Fig. 4 is shown the wiring for bells in series with each other. This arrangement requires more current to operate than the parallel circuit in the previous diagram because the resistance of the circuit is larger. Vibrating bell and one or more single stroke bells will work satisfactorily when so connected. A number of vibrating bells can be made to operate in series if a short circuit be placed round the make-and-break contacts on all the bells *except one*. Then the master bell will make and break the circuit for all of them and all the bells will vibrate together.

Bells in Parallel With Common Return.—Fig. 5 shows how three bells may be connected up in multiple using a common return wire.

Two Bells and Buzzer.—An arrangement suitable for a residence is shown in Fig. 6. Both the front and back door bells are usually located in the kitchen and have different sounds to indicate from which door the call comes. The push for the dining room buzzer is within that room, and the buzzer is located in the kitchen or pantry.

Note.—In the above sketches the dotted line wire may be replaced by the earth if desired. A saving in wire is effected by using the earth as the *return circuit*. As a general proposition, however, the ground return circuit is undesirable, as one ground on one of the normally ungrounded wires will render the system inoperative. In cities and towns and near electric railway circuits "stray" currents are likely to interfere with the normal operation of the bell circuits.

Parts of Bell Circuit.—A knowledge of the construction of the various parts of the circuit is necessary to master the operation of the more complex bell circuits and follows herewith.

Push Button.—In Fig. 7 are shown the details of a very commonly used "push" which makes a single contact. This type is generally used for the simple bell circuits previously described. For return call systems (see Fig. 13), a "Double contact" push is necessary. This type is shown in detail in Fig. 8 and is also termed the "three-point" or "return call" push button. Typical applications are shown later in Fig. 13.

Source of Current. Battery.—The dry cell is most generally used for door bell circuits as it is more convenient and reliable than the wet battery and really cheaper in the long run. The dry cell lasts a long time for ordinary bell work and is quickly replaced. Where several bells are to be operated or where a circuit of considerable length is operated, several dry cells are connected either in series or in parallel or in series-parallel; the proper connection being a matter of "cut-and-try" to see which gives the best results. Fig. 9 shows a series-parallel connection of two batteries, each having two cells in series.

Lighting Circuit.—About 0.1 ampere is required to operate the ordinary bell, and in operating a bell from the electric lighting circuit, enough incandescent lamps should be used to cut down the current to this value. Fig. 10 shows the proper connections. Care should be taken to have at least one lamp in series with each side of the circuit at the cut-out to prevent trouble in case of an accidental ground on the bell circuit. The ordinary trembling bell arcs too much at the vibrating contacts unless a lamp is connected in shunt with it as shown in Fig. 10. A *differential* bell will work very satisfactorily, however, with lamps in series as shown in Fig. 11. There is, of course, *a waste of power* in the added resistance and the necessity of renewing broken globes are two disadvantages to this source of power.

Bell-ringing Transformer. — Wherever *alternating current* is available the bell transformer should be used for operating the bells. Such a transformer properly installed will give service at all times and need never be replaced. The cost of operating a well designed bell ringing transformer is practically nothing, as the current for operating 1 or 2 bells is not sufficient to start an ordinary watt-hour meter, such as is used in residences. There are no losses whatever, therefore, that the owner bears in a transformer installation. The installation of the transformer requires a little care on the part of the electrician or wireman. The National Electrical Code rules require that the primary side of the transformer, with the wiring shall be in accordance with the regular rules for the installation of lighting wires. The secondary circuit of a transformer may be installed in accordance with the Code rules for signal systems. Fig. 12 shows the bell ringing transformer connected to the lighting mains, with the bell wiring circuit attached.

(*Continued on page* 522)

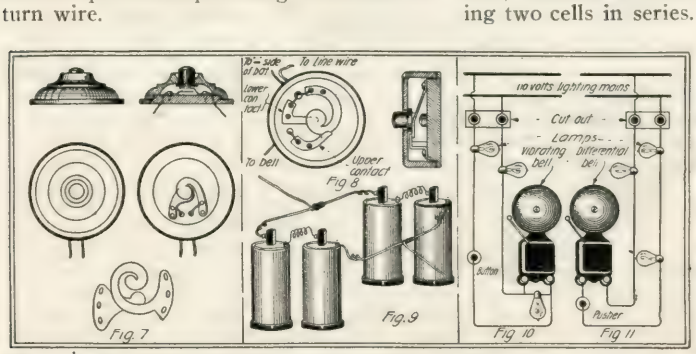


Fig. 7—Shows Plan, Section, Elevation and Metal Contacts of a "Push-Button." Fig. 8—Shows Plan and Section of Double Contact Push. Fig. 9—Battery Cells Connected in Series-Parallel. Figs. 10 and 11—Bells Being Operated From Lighting Mains.

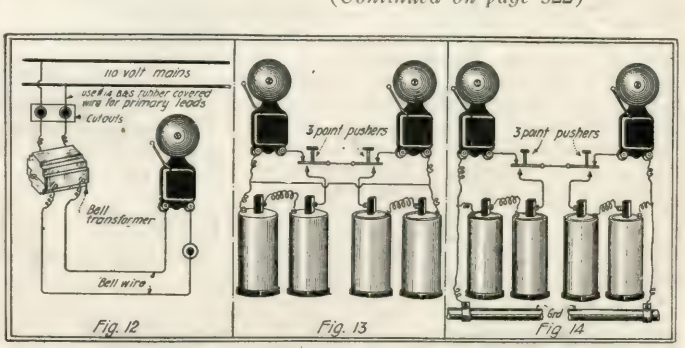
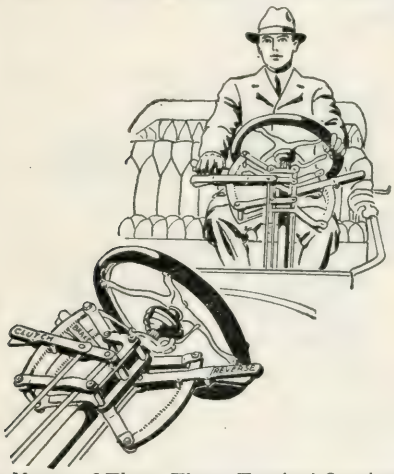


Fig. 12—Shows Connections of Step-Down Bell-Ringing Transformer. Fig. 13—Two-Line "Return Call" Bell System with Two Sets of Batteries. Fig. 14—Illustrating a "Grounded" Return Call System; Separate Batteries For Each Circuit.

MOTOR HINTS

1st Prize $25.00.
A HAND-CONTROLLED CAR

Some time after receiving a bullet-wound that disabled my legs, I read a newspaper announcement to the effect that the judges in a certain competition had declared me a successful participant, and had wished onto me two of the chief prizes—specifically, a



By Means of These Three-Toothed Quadrants and Handles Anyone Who Has Lost the Use of the Lower Limbs Can Readily Steer and Control the Car.

player-piano; and a touring-car with four sturdy cylinders behind its radiator and four name-letters in front.

Two mechanisms, both workable only with the feet—and my feet helpless! What ironical luck!

But not for long. Taking the contest judges at their full word that I was "a winner," I put aside for a while the simpler problem of converting the foot-power piano into a *hand-pumper,* and focused my thought upon contriving some means to control the car *with the hands alone!*

Several of the necessary parts I fashioned in my own garage; for the rest, drilling and forge work, I submitted my drawings to a machinist. Briefly, the device consists of three toothed quadrants bolted to the steering column. Each quadrant carries a lever; and each lever, pawls to engage the teeth at any point in its up-and-down throw. Three oblique rods run from the levers down thru the dash to a trio of bell-cranks—small L-shaped pieces each pivoted at its corner to the engine-base. From these, in turn, run three more rods, horizontally beneath the floor, to the extended pedal-shafts. Tension springs from dash to bell-cranks cause the levers under the steering-wheel to return automatically; and the brake lever, when prest, interacts very simply with the clutch, releasing it without resort to the clutch lever itself.

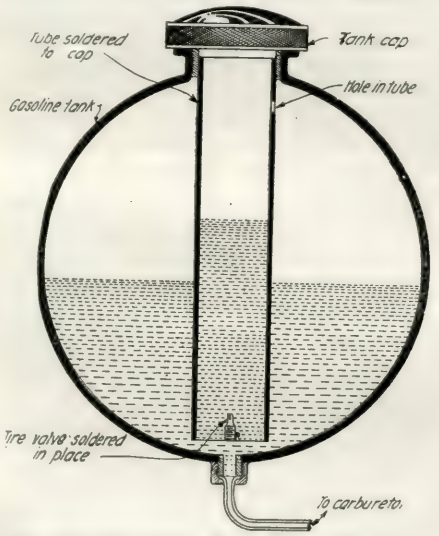
Twenty thousand miles of city and mountain motoring have taught me that the advantages of driving thus by hand instead of by foot are many, while I have yet to discover a single disadvantage. I have none of these hand-control appliances for sale. But if any "Buddy" injured in the late World War, or anybody else, is earnestly curious, I shall gladly supply further details *gratis* in response to inquiries forwarded to my address by the editor.

Contributed by A. B. TRIPP.

2nd Prize $15.00.
EMERGENCY GASOLINE SUPPLY.

The experienced motorist aways carries a spare can of gasoline in the expectation of the time he will be caught without gas in his tank. But too often he forgets to fill the spare can and he is as bad off as ever. Herein is described a can that it is impossible to forget to fill for it fills itself every time the tank is filled.

A tin tube is soldered to the cap of the gasoline tank long enough to reach to the bottom of the tank. A hole is cut in the tube just below where it is attached to the cap. The bottom of the tube is closed by a disk of tin having the valve taken from a bicycle tire soldered in the center. The function of this valve is to permit gasoline



Ever Been Stuck 20 Miles From Home with the "Gas" All Gone? Here's a Clever Idea For an Emergency "Gas" Supply.

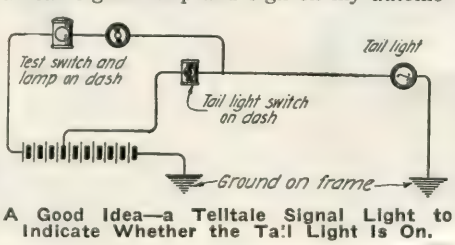
to flow up into the tube when the tank is filled and then to retain it there as the tank empties.

This reserve supply of gasoline is usually sufficient to reach the next gas station. The tube can also be used as a gage by properly marking it.

Contributed by THOMAS W. BENSON.

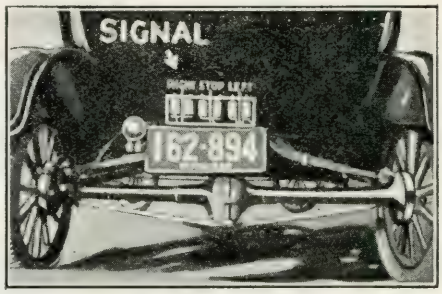
Third Prize, $10.00.
REAR SIGNAL LIGHT.

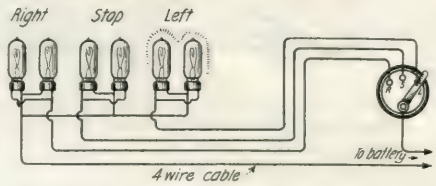
The accompanying photograph and diagram show how I constructed and installed a rear signal lamp and sign on my automobile. The diagram is practically self-explanatory—a three point switch is mounted in a convenient position for the driver and current for lighting the lamps is obtained either from a car battery or from dry cells, or magneto.



A Good Idea—a Telltale Signal Light to Indicate Whether the Tail Light Is On.

The lamps used may be all white ones or colored as the owner wishes. The best way





A Simple Yet Positive Electric Signal For the Rear of Your Automobile. It Is Operated From the Seat.

of course, is to build a small sheet iron box, water-tight, and paint letters on the front of the box for the corresponding lamps or sets of lamps. But one signal is flasht at a time, either RIGHT, STOP, or LEFT.

The wires used in installing this signal in a car should be rubber covered and the heavier the better, if you want to make it real trouble-proof.

The second diagram shows a scheme which I have used successfully to indicate when the tail-light is out, without having to get out of the car. In other words, it serves as a tell-tale signal.

Contributed by JOHN J. SLANINA.

DO NOT "RIDE" THE CLUTCH.

One of the commonest faults of auto drivers is that of keeping their feet on the clutch pedal while driving. There are different kinds of clutch throw-out collars which are brass, bronze, ball-bearing and some of wood.

By keeping the foot on the clutch pedal as a *rest,* no matter how gently you press on the pedal, you will always put a pressure on the throw-out collar which causes great friction, causing the parts to heat up and the lubricant to thin up and run off; this friction wearing off the throw-out collar.

It is a good practise to learn to drive with the foot *off* the clutch pedal!

The best way to operate the clutch pedal is to have from one-eighth to five-sixteenths inch play from foot-boards, thus insuring removal of all possibilities of any friction.

Contributed by C. C. MOREAU.

FILLS CRANK-CASE WITH WATER IN EMERGENCY.

How many of us, that drive Fords, have run out of lubricating oil just where it is unobtainable? I have had it happen several times, but it never worries me. I simply fill my crank-case with water until oil flows out of the top pet-cock. This has always brought me home, In fact I have made as much as fifty miles this way.

Contributed by HOWARD SUTTLE.

$50.00 IN PRIZES.
Paid for "Motor Hints."

Most of our readers have a car of their own, and any number of them have made certain improvements on that car. We want to know about these improvements. What we want are PRACTICAL ideas, not freak stunts. The idea should be simple enough, so that anyone handy with tools can duplicate it. Note that the idea does not necessarily have to be electrical in any way.

We would like to have a photograph of the stunt showing that it was actually tried, but this is not absolutely necessary to win a prize. A simple sketch will do showing the essential parts, etc.

We will pay the following prizes each month:

FIRST PRIZE.....$25.00
SECOND PRIZE..... 15.00
THIRD PRIZE..... 10.00

All other accepted articles, which win no prizes will be paid for at the rate of $2.00. Articles submitted should not be long ones. About one hundred to two hundreds words will suffice. Address all manuscripts to Editor, "Motor Hints," care of this publication.

PHONOGRAPH PRIZE CONTEST

What Can You Do With Your Phonograph?

The Phonograph Needle Sharpener Is the Latest Invention of Mr. J. G. Hobson. It Is a Small Attachment Which Screws to the Top of a Phonograph, and by Means of a Friction Wheel Rotates an Abrasive Stone, Sharpening the Needle in a Jiffy.

THERE is a phonograph of some sort or other in almost every home nowadays and it is of course used chiefly for musical purposes; or, from the viewpoint of the man who does *not* own one, for the purpose of annoying him and keeping him awake when he wants to sleep. At any rate phonographs are built primarily to dispense music.

Has it however, occurred to you that the phonograph might be used for other purposes besides playing records?

In the modern phonograph we have a powerful silent spring motor and we have also a speed regulator. In other words we have here a motive power of no little force which is constant and which can be utilized for a variety of other purposes than for merely whirling the black disks.

The purpose of this contest is to test the ingenuity of our readers and to ascertain whether or not something real useful and practical can be discovered for the purpose of utilizing the motive energy of the phonograph.

On an average a phonograph works hardly more than one hour, seldom running as long as two hours per day. In other words for a considerable time it is idle, when it might be doing some useful work or perhaps amuse someone. What can our readers do by way of suggestions?

Here We Have the Moviescope, Which Was the First Moving Picture Machine in Existence. It Is a Great Favorite with Children From Four to Ninety Years Old. It Can Be Placed upon the Phonograph and Works Well.

Let us give a few illustrations to show just what we are after. The editor has a little girl who used to be afraid to go to sleep in the dark, and even with the light burning it always took her from three-quarters to one hour to fall asleep. So the editor one day hit upon a novel means to artificially bring about sleep in a harmless manner. He took a pasteboard box, as shown in the illustration, and cut a dozen slots about four inches long and about a half inch wide equally spaced apart into the cardboard. Then he pasted thin strips of colored tissue paper inside the round box so that the slots were covered up. Four colors were used: red, white, blue and green. The pasting of these pieces of paper was done so that the colors alternated from slot to slot. This box was then placed on top of the turntable after having pusht a hole into the bottom to fit the stud on which the phonograph records are so placed.

An electrical lamp from a nearby fixture was hung within the box which was open at the top and the phonograph, after having been wound up was started at its slowest speed.

$50.00 IN PRIZES

We want original ideas on how to use a phonograph for other, besides musical purposes. Every phonograph has a powerful spring motor, a regulator and a rotating turntable. WHAT DOES THIS SUGGEST TO YOU? Read this article for suggestions—and note particularly that if the idea is patentable you will be protected for two years.

We will pay the following prizes:

FIRST PRIZE $25.00
SECOND PRIZE..... 15.00
THIRD PRIZE 10.00
—Editor.

The little girl whose room was adjoining just managed to see the rotating box and being in a dark room her eyes were naturally fixt on the whirling colored box. After watching the box for five or six minutes she usually fell asleep after which the device was stopt and the light turned off.

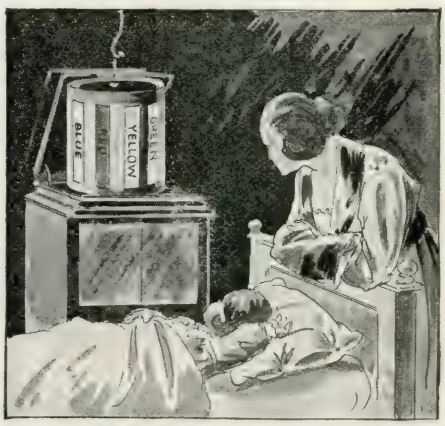
A second idea is shown in another one of our illustrations, which shows a coon jigger dancing up and down on the record and which may be bought at most novelty stores. At one time this was a quite popular device selling from about 50c to 75c, and it is reported that hundreds and thousands of these were sold for the amusement of children; thousands are in use today. This device of course can be used while the phonograph is playing, or it can be used without a record using the rotating turntable only. It just gives an idea what can be done along such lines.

In our next illustration we have the *movie-scope* called the Zoetrope. This toy is well known and was the forerunner of the present day "movies." It is simply a cardboard cylinder open at the top; it is about seven to eight inches in diameter and about five inches high. Different strips of paper are placed along the inner circumference of the cylinder and on these strips are printed various pictures such as a jumping cat or a running horse, each picture showing a different pose from the preceding one. The box is then rotated and the picture is viewed by looking into the inside thru the narrow slots which are about ¼ inch wide and four inches high. As the box rotates a true animated picture is seen exactly as our present day moving pictures. This movie-scope can be placed upon the phonograph turn table and will work very well. Toy dealers have been selling such movie-scopes for some time.

Dancing Toys Attached to the Top of a Phonograph Have Been Very Popular For Amusing Children. There Are at Least Four or Five Different Styles on the Market.

A very original idea is shown in our next illustration and this is the invention of Mr. J. G. Hobson who conducts the department *What To Invent* in this publication. Recently M. Hobson sent a little machine to the editor and there seems to be a great demand for such a device. Mr. Hobson reports that his factory is behind with about 4,000 of these needle sharpeners and that they have sold over 50,000 so far. The device is a small affair which screws to the phonograph and is for the purpose of resharpening the worn-out phonograph needles instead of throwing them away. The device is very simple and sells at a low cost. It consists of a friction turn-wheel, the shaft of which has a small abrasive stone. As the wheel turns this stone presses against the phonograph needle which is inserted into a small top hole and held in place. In a few seconds the needle is resharpened. In ten minutes' time a great many needles can thus be resharpened.

(*Continued on page 533*)



If Your Little Boy or Girl Is Afraid of the Dark, Take an Old Hat-Box, Cut Slots in the Sides and Paste Colored Papers Over the Slots. An Electric Light Inside Completes the Device. Rotate It on the Phonograph. It Will Put Any Child to Sleep.

Popular Astronomy

By ISABEL M. LEWIS, M.A.

Of U. S. Naval Observatory

Collision of the Earth with Heavenly Bodies

WHENEVER a moving body is brought to rest its energy of motion or kinetic energy is transformed into heat. The amount of heat evolved depends on the mass of the body and on the velocity with which it was moving.

An astronomical example of this transfer of energy of motion into heat is afforded us in the stoppage of millions of meteoric particles daily by friction with the earth's atmosphere. These particles average less than a grain in weight and are moving with an average velocity of twenty-six miles per second when they enter our atmosphere. The amount of heat evolved when these "shooting stars" are stopt by friction is hundreds of times greater than would be afforded by burning an equal quantity of coal in pure oxygen and is more than sufficient to fuse the most refractory substances. Tho the particles are extremely minute the intensity of their light arising from friction with the air makes them visible to us at distances of sixty miles or more. Anyone who has observed the passage thru the air of a large meteor, or fireball, weighing possibly a pound or so, knows what terrific explosions are produced and what blinding flashes of light, indicative of the tremendous amount of energy suddenly released from such an insignificant mass.

It can be shown by simple computation that the amount of heat evolved in arresting the motion of a kilogram of matter (2.2 pounds) entering the earth's atmosphere with a velocity of twenty miles per second, is about 125,000 calories.

The amount of heat received from the sun per square meter of the earth's surface per minute is thirty calories, and if one hunded tons of meteoric matter fell daily with a velocity of twenty miles per second over every square mile of the earth's surface *as much heat would be furnished to us from this source alone as we receive from the sun!*

In view of the fact that such a tremendous amount of heat is evolved in arresting the motion of matter it was believed at one time that possibly the radiant energy of the sun might be replenished by the falling of meteoric matter onto its surface.

A kilogram of matter falling to the sun from the distance of the planets would acquire a velocity of 380 miles per second by the time it reached the surface of the sun and the amount of heat released in arresting its motion would be 45,000,000 calories. Now the sun radiates from every square meter of its surface per minute about 1,400,000 calories, and computations showed that a quantity of meteoric matter equal to one-seventy-fourth of the earth's mass, or a little more than the mass of the moon, hurled against the solar surface *every year* with a velocity of 380 miles per second would suffice to maintain the sun's energy of radiation. We may say in passing that this theory of the source of the solar energy fails for the reason that if such a quantity of meteoric matter were actually striking the solar surface yearly it would imply that there existed within the solar system such a tremendous total mass of meteoric matter that the planets as well as the sun would be bombarded by meteors to a far greater extent than they actually are and thru its gravitational effect it would seriously perturb the motions of all the members of the solar system. That a certain small per cent of the solar energy is replenished by the fall of meteoric matter to the surface of the sun there can be no doubt, but it must be extremely small.

The Earth Has Past Many Times Thru the Tail of a Comet, and This Happened Only a Few Years Ago. The Tail of the Comet, However, Is So Fine That We Were Not the Wiser for It, and Only Astronomers Knew That the Earth Past Thru the Comet's Tail. In This Illustration Is Shown Graphically What Would Happen If the Earth Would Plow Its Way Thru the Head of a Comet. Such a Head Measures About 100,000 Miles in Diameter, and Is Not at All Solid as Has Been Thought for a Long Time. It Has Been Calculated That the Head of a Comet Has Only About One Hundred Millionth Part of the Mass of the Earth and Therefore While Such a Collision Would Be Disagreeable, It would Not Destroy the Earth.

Outside of Doing Local Damage in Various Parts of the Earth, Killing Cattle and People, and Wrecking Buildings, the Earth Would Emerge Practically Intact After Such a Collision. It Is Interesting to Note That a Head-On Collision With the Comet's Nucleus Occurs Only Once In Fifteen Million Years.

If a mass of matter equal to that of the moon falling into the sun yearly would actually account for its entire radiation during that period, one can imagine what disastrous results to the solar system would follow if a body the size of our planet were to fall into the sun from outer space or from the distances of the planets.

If the earth's orbital velocity should suddenly be *completely* arrested, the earth would fall to the sun in a period of sixty-four and a fraction days! The sudden stopping of the earth in its orbit would be attended by a tremendous evolution of heat and light and by explosions of the earth material. Particles of the earth material thrown from the parent mass by the force of explosions would revolve about the sun in orbits intersecting at the scene of the catastrophe and particles that were ejected with equal velocity would return at the same time whatever their direction of ejection. The remnant of the shattered world possessing no velocity of translation would fall into the sun under gravitational attraction and bring about a second catastrophe by suddenly increasing the intensity of the solar radiation. If all the energy produced by arresting the motion of a mass equal to that of the earth and moving with a velocity of 380 miles per second should be instantly available, *it would amount to as much as the sun radiates in seventy-odd years* and would probably turn our sun into a *Nova* (new star) and our solar system into a chaotic nebulous mass in place of the orderly family of planets with their satellites that now encircle the sun in orbits, that are almost perfect circles and in periods of time that remain practically invariable for millions of years.

If the earth were moving thru a resisting medium instead of thru a vacuum, its speed of axial rotation would be gradually diminishing, just as the rate of rotation of a spinning top is continually decreased by the resistance of the air, and as a result the length of the day would be increasing continually. Moreover, the earth's speed of revolution around the sun would decrease and it would therefore be constrained to move in an orbit of smaller size and its distance from the sun would accordingly decrease. In the course of ages it would draw in nearer and nearer to the sun until finally it would be torn asunder by tidal strains and its pulverized remains would fall upon the solar surface.

Judging from the invariability of the rates of axial rotations of the planets and also of their periods of revolution around the sun there exists within the solar system no extensive resisting medium that retards to the slightest degree the movements of any of the planets or their satellites or even the tenuous comets with one or two remarkable exceptions.

Enck's comet, which revolves about the sun in the shortest of all known cometary periods, shows at times a peculiar acceleration of motion of about two and one-half hours in a revolution of 3.3 years that can be explained only by assuming that it encounters some form of resisting medium at some point in its path. Such a medium would be incapable of checking in the slightest degree the speed of the more massive members of the solar system and may be effective in slacking the speed of this comet only because it is composed of matter in an extremely tenuous form.

Comets are in proportion to their mass the bulkiest of all celestial bodies. Their heads are anywhere from ten thousand to a million miles in diameter, and their tails, which develop only when they are comparatively near to the sun, may be millions of miles in length. We know next to nothing regarding the total mass of a comet tho we can set an upper limit that it cannot exceed. Comets have past so close to the planets at times that were their individual masses as great as one hundred-thousandth part of the mass of the earth they would have produced measurable disturbances in the motions of the planets and no such disturbances have ever been observed. It has also been observed frequently that stars have shone thru the tails of comets and even in some instances thru the heads without any appreciable diminution of brightness, tho a few observers have suspected at times a slight decrease in the brightness of a star when viewed thru the head of a comet.

It is therefore probable that the total quantity of matter in the average comet does not exceed one-millionth part of the mass of the earth and it may be far less. Probably by far the greater part of this mass is collected in the nucleus and head of the comet. The tail, which consists of minute particles driven off from the head by the pressure of radiant light and electrical repulsion, having a density about the same as that of the solar corona or of the best vacuum man can produce.

The individual particles in the nucleus of the comet may be no larger than grains of sand or they may be of the size of hens' eggs, or possibly they may be boulders weighing tons, separated from one another by hundreds of feet.

Now, if the earth's surface were weighed at its surface piecemeal it would total six times ten to the twenty-first power tons—that is, six followed by twenty-one ciphers (6,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 tons). Assuming that there is in the nucleus and denser portions of the head of the average comet a quantity of matter equal to one hundred-millionth part of the mass of the earth, we find that this gives the quite considerable quantity of six followed by thirteen ciphers tons for the amount of meteoric matter thus assembled. If we take as the diameter of the head of the average comet one hundred thousand miles and assume that this quantity of matter is distributed with fairly uniform density thruout a sphere of this diameter, we find that the average amount of matter in the head per cubic mile would be about one-tenth of a ton.

What would be the effect of a head-on collision of the earth traveling at the rate of eighteen miles per second, with the head and nucleus of this comet, which we will assume is traveling at the rate of twenty-two miles per second?

The relative velocity of the two bodies at the time of impact would be forty miles per second! The earth would pass thru the head of the comet in a little over forty minutes. The forward or day side of the earth only would feel the direct effects of the encounter. Every square mile of this hemisphere of the earth would be bombarded with four tons of meteoric matter per second for a period of two thousand five hundred seconds (forty-one and ½a

(*Continued on page* 570)

A Distant View Taken From Space Shows How the Earth Would Plow Thru the Head of a Comet. Note That the Head of the Comet Measures About 100,000 miles. It Would Take About 40 Minutes for the Earth to Traverse Thru the Nucleus of the Comet for the Reason That the Two Bodies Move at the Rate of 40 Miles per Second.

Practical Chemical Experiments

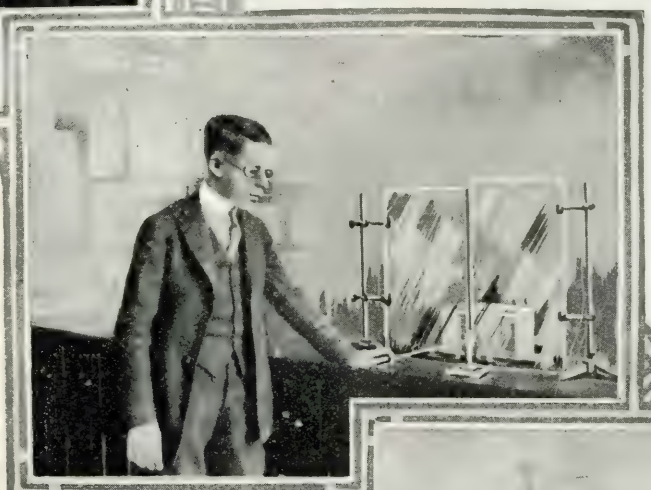
By PROF. FLOYD L. DARROW

CHEMICAL EFFECTS OF LIGHT

Producing Oxygen By the Action of Sunlight on the Chlorophyl of Green Leaves.

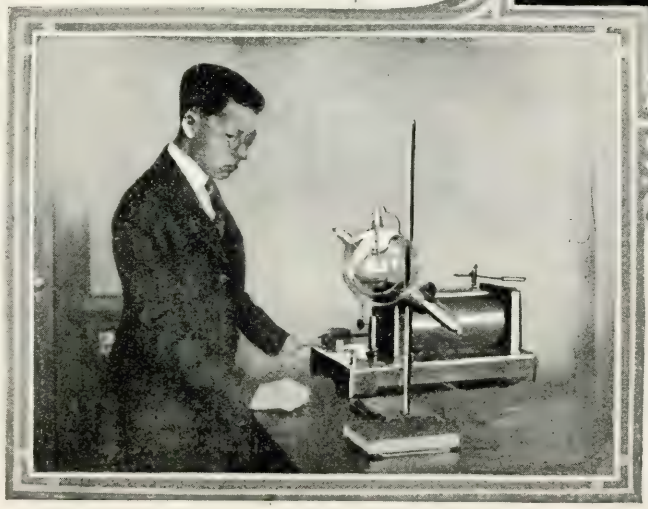
TO a vastly greater degree than many of us are aware this planet and its inhabitants are dependent upon the chemical effects of Light for the energy we use and the pleasures we enjoy. It is the energy transmitted in the chemical rays of the sun that takes the carbon dioxide breathed in from the air, and the water absorbed thru the roots, and builds them into the woody fiber of the tree. Many other processes of life and decay are directly or indirectly dependent upon the chemical energy of sunlight, while the chemical effects of the violet rays of the spectrum upon the silver salts of photography are among the marvels of modern science.

Effect of Sunlight upon a Mixture of Hydrogen and Chlorine: Set up apparatus for the generation of hydrogen and chlorine in exactly the same way as was described in the article of this series for July. Select a small thick-walled bottle—one holding not over two ounces, for a small quantity of the gases produces a big explosion. Fill the bottle with water and invert in a basin of water. Then start the hydrogen generator and fill the bottle half full of hydrogen by displacement of water. Fill the remainder of the space with chlorine, collecting it over water in the same way as the hydrogen. *Be sure this is done in a well-shaded room and that no direct sunlight falls upon the bottle.* Slip a glass plate under the bottle, remove it and tightly stopper with a solid rubber stopper. Place it under a heavy thick-walled battery jar raised on quarter-inch blocks from the table. In front of this mount a substantial glass screen. See Figure 1. Have at hand a flash powder made by mixing equal parts of magnesium dust and pulverized potassium chlorate. Place a small quantity of the powder on an asbestos square at a distance of six or eight inches *in front of the glass screen.* Ignite the powder with a long wax taper. As the intensely bright white light, especially rich in violet chemical rays, falls upon the mixture of gases they combine with explosive violence and the liberation of great energy. It is the chemical effect of the violet rays that produces the change.



Exploding a Mixture of Hydrogen and Chlorine by the Chemical Rays of a flashlight. (A Very Small Bottle of the Mixture Is Placed Under the Heavy Battery Jar Behind the Glass Screen.

Preparing Blue Print Paper By Lightly Drawing a Piece Over the Sensitizing Solution.



At Left: Making a Radiograph of a Key Placed in a Book Which Lies upon a Photographic Plate, Wrapt in Black Paper.

An interesting modification of this experiment can be had by placing between the battery jar and the flash powder a screen of red glass. In this case the chemical rays are cut off and no explosion occurs. If, however, a screen of blue glass is used the gases will combine just as readily as they did in the first case.

Effect of Sunlight on Cuprous Chloride: Prepare a concentrated solution of cupric chloride and immerse in it a sheet of polished copper. The copper will become coated with a layer of insoluble cuprous chloride, the metallic copper reducing the cupric salt to cuprous form. The cuprous compound is white in color. Now wash the copper in running water and place over it some design cut from heavy paper. Upon exposure to the light the uncovered portion will turn a dark purple while the part covered by the paper will remain white. This action again is due to the chemical effects of light.

The Effect of Sunlight upon Green Leaves: Arrange apparatus as shown in Figure 2. In a two-liter flask place green leaves, not too closely packed, and fill with water thru which carbon dioxide has been allowed to bubble for some time. In the neck of the flask insert a one-holed rubber stopper carrying a funnel and so firmly prest in that the water will rise and fill the stem of the funnel. Then fill the funnel two-thirds full of water and invert in it a small cylinder filled with water. Place the whole apparatus in strong sunlight and leave it for a few hours. When examined again the cylinder will be found partly full of gas. Place a glass plate beneath it and remove the cylinder in the usual way. Upon introducing a glowing splint into the gas it will burst into a flame, showing the gas to be oxygen. The same chemical action has taken place here that occurs in the leaves of a growing plant. The chlorophyl of the leaves, aided by the chemical effects of the sun's rays has caused the water and carbon dioxide absorbed by the leaves to unite to form *cellulose,* accompanied by the liberation of oxygen.

In Nature, plant life is all the while breathing in carbon dioxide from the air and giving off oxygen. When the woody fiber of these plants decays or undergoes combustion, carbon dioxide is given back to the atmosphere and oxygen is absorbed. Thus the carbon and oxygen cycle completes itself.

Blue Printing: One of the simplest and most practical applications of the chemical effects of light is found in the process of blue printing. Blue prints are made by the action of light on certain salts of iron.

To learn the chemistry of this process prepare two *very dilute* solutions of ferric chloride and ferrous sulfate respectively. To each of them add a few drops of a solution of potassium ferricyanide.. Note that the color of the ferric salt is greenish, while that of the ferrous salt is a deep blue.

Now prepare a test tube of dilute ferric chloride solution and add to it 3 or 4 cubic centimeters of a saturated solution of oxalic acid and a few drops of potassium ferricyanide solution. Mix thoroly and expose the test tube to strong sunlight. Almost immediately you will observe streaks of blue color in the tube, and very shortly the solution will have changed to a deep blue thruout. It is evident from these tests that the ferric salt has been reduced to ferrous form, for the ferric salt does not give a blue color with potassium ferricyanide.

To show that light is essential to this change prepare another test tube exactly similar to the previous one, but this time keep it in the dark. No change of color will be observed.

To make a blue print on paper prepare a mixture of a dilute solution of ferric chloride and a saturated solution of oxalic acid, using 3 parts of ferric chloride to 1 of oxalic acid. Place the mixture in a tray and in another tray prepare a dilute solution of potassium ferricyanide. Place these trays in a dimly lighted room. Then secure some good quality of unglazed paper and taking a square 3 by 4 inches, draw it lightly across the surface of the ferric chloride and oxalic acid solutions. Place in the center of it a coin or some other opaque object and expose to the sun light for two or three minutes. Upon floating the paper face down on the solution of potassium ferricyanide a blue color will appear over the surface except in the center where the opaque object was placed.

Preparation of real Blue Print Paper: First prepare two solutions as follows:

Solution I
- Ferric ammonium citrate....20 grams
- Water .....100 cc.
- Add ammonium hydroxide until a decided color appears.

Solution II
- Potassium ferricyanide.....20 grams
- Water .....100 cc.

Make a mixture of equal parts of the two solutions and to 10 parts of the mixture add 3 parts of a saturated solution of oxalic acid.

In a dark room draw squares of good quality unglazed paper across the surface of the prepared mixture, distributing it as evenly as possible and keeping the upper side of the paper from getting wet. Dry these squares of paper in the dark. Press them if you like between the pages of some large book and they will be ready for use. The paper, like all blue print paper, will have a greenish cast when freshly prepared and before exposing to the light.

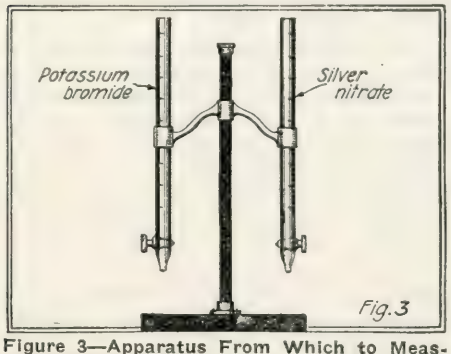


Figure 3—Apparatus From Which to Measure Solutions for the Preparation of Silver Bromide

Place upon the paper some opaque object and expose to the light for a few minutes. A bluish tinge will begin to appear. Then immerse the paper in water and a deep blue will at once come wherever the paper has been exposed to the light. Wash the print long enough to remove the sensitive salts from the unexposed part. Then dry and the impression will be permanent.

Silver Salts in Photography: To learn the action of light on silver salts and the chemical action which takes place in the developing and "fixing" of a plate, film or print four solutions will be required as follows:

- Silver nitrate—17 grams per liter of water.
- Potassium bromide—36 grams per liter of water.
- Hypo—250 grams of sodium thio-sulfate per liter of water.
- Developer—10 grams hydrochinone, 20 grams sodium sulfate, 1 gram potassium bromide, 1 gram citric acid, 20 grams sodium carbonate.

Keep the silver nitrate and developer in dark colored bottles or in a dark room.

Wrap a test tube in heavy dark paper and fill it one-fourth full of water. Then either from burettes, as in Figure 3, or small measuring cylinders add 1 cc. each of silver nitrate and potassium bromide solutions. This will precipitate suspended silver bromide. Mix well by very gentle shaking and carrying the test tube to a window remove the paper and expose the silver bromide to the action of the sunlight for a few minutes. In doing this turn the test tube about and gently shake it so as

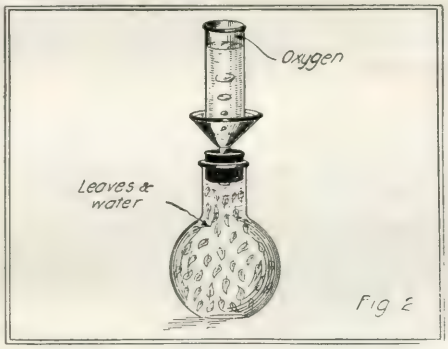


Figure 2—Liberating Oxygen From Green Leaves by the Action of Chlorophyl and Sunlight

to expose all parts equally. If there is no organic matter present there should be but little discoloration.

Now add about 5 cc. of the developer to the exposed bromide and allow the action to continue for two minutes. Note the darkening of the contents of the tube. Then add 10 cc. of the hypo and shake the tube well. Hold it to the light and you will notice that the contents are no longer opaque, but that little fine black particles seem to be floating in the liquid. These are particles of metallic silver.

In order to convince yourself of the necessity of light in bringing about this action prepare another test tube of silver bromide, keeping it well protected from the light, and add 5 cc. of developer. Keep the tube in the dark for five minutes and then add hypo as before. You will observe that the silver bromide entirely dissolves and that there is no reduction of metallic silver.

The chemical action of light in photography is simply this: The sunlight initiates a latent change in the silver salt, not apparent to the eye, but one which the developer is capable of taking up and continuing. This latent change undoubtedly consists in the reduction of an infinitesimal amount of metallic silver and this acts as a so-called "catalyzer" to start the action of the developer. On a film or plate the amount of silver deposited will be in proportion to the intensity of the light falling upon it. Therefore those portions of the film upon which are focused the white parts of the object will be dark and vice versa. Hence we have a negative. In the printing of the

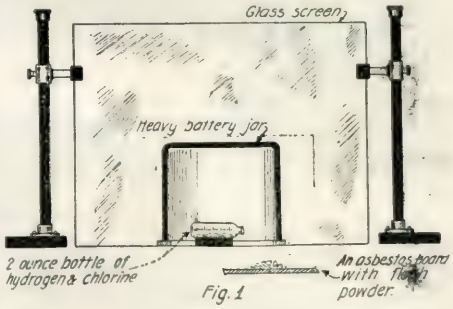


Figure 1—Exploding Hydrogen and Chlorine by the Chemical Effects of Rays of a Flashlight. A Small 2-ounce Bottle Containing the Gases Is Placed, as Shown, Under a Strong Glass Jar Behind a Protective Glass Screen, the Jar Being Raised on Wooden Blocks

negative these lights and shades are again reversed and the result is a positive. The silver bromide is made wonderfully more sensitive by the presence of organic matter, as gelatine.

Photographing without a Camera: At first thought a proposition of this sort seems impossible, but as we shall see it is not. For this work it will be necessary for you to obtain from a dealer in photographic supplies a dozen sheets of "self toning" paper. One excellent kind of such paper is known as "Aristotype" paper. Self toning paper requires no developer. It prints out in the sunlight and needs only to be placed in the fixing bath and then washed. To learn its action hold a small piece in the sunlight. It will begin to darken almost immediately and quickly change to a deep brown color. But the part covered by your thumb will remain white.

Now suppose you want to make a reproduction of some picture in a book. Select a picture which is white on the reverse side of the sheet, having no printing or pictures on that side. If you will hold this up to the light with the white side toward you, you will notice that the picture can be clearly seen thru the paper. The light passes thru the white portion more readily than it does thru the picture itself.

To make a picture place a sheet of the self toning paper underneath it with the glossy side up and over the two place a piece of glass. Now put your book in the bright sunlight and leave it exposed for five to ten minutes, according to the thickness of the paper and the brightness of the light. Upon removing the paper you will find a clear print of the picture. But in order to keep it from becoming dark all over you must fix it. Therefore immerse it for ten minutes in a hypo bath. Then wash it and dry it. This print, however, will be a negative. In order to get a positive place the negative face down on another piece of the self toning paper and expose it to the sunlight as before. Then fix it, wash it and dry it.

Self toning paper contains silver chloride suspended in egg albumen.

Making an X-Ray Picture: If you have a spark coil that will give a 2 to 5 inch spark you will be able to use it on an X-ray tube. The expense, too, of a small or medium sized X-ray tube is not prohibitive. The photographic action of the rays given off from the cathode of an X-ray tube is among the most marvelous of all the chemical effects of light.

Set up your apparatus in a dark room in accordance with the accompanying photo. So mount the X-ray tube that the X-rays will be thrown down upon the table

(*Continued on page* 533)

The Rogers Printing Telegraph

By H. WINFIELD SECOR

SOME time ago, while on a visit to Washington, D. C., the writer had the pleasure of visiting the radio and electrical laboratory of Dr. James Harris Rogers, the inventor of the new world-famed underground and undersea radio system, whereby the antenna wires are buried underground or laid under water, instead of being elevated above the earth.

While visiting Dr. Rogers' laboratory, the writer was greatly impressed with several large machines having giant fly-wheels mounted in them, as well as typewriter keyboards, perforated tape reels and several other electrical devices, and, upon inquiring of the good doctor, the latter interestingly explained how he had developt this, his *rapid printing telegraph*, a good many years ago, and how it had transmitted the first printed telegraph letters between Baltimore and Washington on March 14, 1895.

THIS INVENTOR ABANDONED THE TYPE WHEEL OR STEP BY STEP MOVEMENT OF PRINTING TELEGRAPHY ABOUT EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO AND SOUGHT FOR RAPID PRINTING TELEGRAPHY- STUDYING OUT THE ELEMENTARY CHARACTERS OF THE ROMAN ALPHABET HE FOUND WITH EIGHT MARKS OR TYPE WHICH PRINT SINGLY AS FOLLOWS _ ı ·/·\·- HE COULD IN PROPER COMBINATION CONSTRUCT THE ALPHABET THUS- A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z- THEN HE SOUGHT AND DISCOVERED, WHILE EXPERIMENTING WITH SENDING OF PHOTOGRAPHS OR OBJECTS BY TELEGRAPH SYNCHRONISM- BY THE AID OF A VISUAL INDICATION, AN ELECTRIC SPARK HE IS ABLE TO MAINTAIN SYNCHRONISM OF MOTORS AND THUS TRANSMIT 200 WORDS PER MINUTE OVER ONE WIRE AND RECEIVE THEM PRINTED READY FOR DELIVERY AS PER THIS SAMPLE- VERY RESPECTFULLY

E - S - NORTON-

A Good Idea of Just How the Different Letters of the Alphabet Are Formed by the Rogers Eight-Character Type. This Message Was Sent From Washington to Baltimore by the Rogers System.

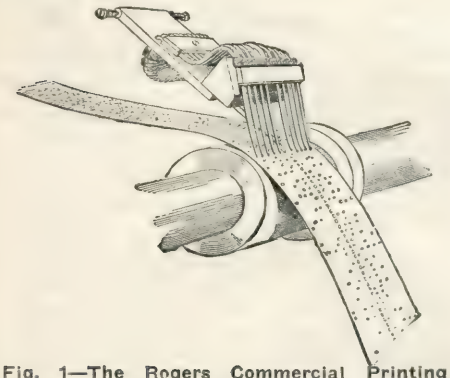


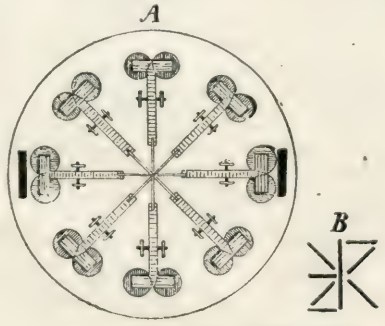
Fig. 1—The Rogers Commercial Printing Telegraph Employed a Perforated Tape, a Set of Insulated Metallic Fingers Making Contact Thru the Perforations Onto the Metal Drum, as the Tape Moved Along.

Altho you will not find mention of the Rogers Printing Telegraph System even in the most elaborate and sumptuous reference books on telegraphy, probably (at least in those with which the writer is familiar) it is of remarkable interest, both to the experimenter and to those who like to read the true history of the advance of electricity, to learn how simply Dr. Rogers eventually worked out his system.

The accompanying illustrations will aid in showing how, with eight simple marks or characters on his magnetic printing machine, he was able to form any letter of the English alphabet, as the sample of printing herewith clearly shows. A close study of the letters in this facsimile message (as transmitted over the Rogers system for considerable distances and for which purpose a corporation was formed over a quarter of a century ago to install this system thruout the country, after many successful trials on long circuits) demonstrated what a great amount of research work had to be devoted to the development of such a system in order that the various component parts of each letter could be transmitted over a single telegraph wire with earth or full metallic return circuit at a very high speed. We will content ourselves with a consideration of a simple working system of the Rogers type, which may be experimentally used by amateur telegraphers and which may prove useful to those interested in electrical and wireless typewriters.

It may be said here that in the complete Rogers Rapid Printing Telegraph System he employed heavy rotating wheels which carried contacts around stationary commutators or segmental switches mounted on the machines, each of the segments connecting to a different pair of electromagnets actuating a certain mark or part of the letter on the *printing head*. In order that the successive signals should be transmitted and received at the proper fraction of a minute, Dr. Rogers devised a simple, yet effective, *spark synchronizer*, whereby the two machines could be operated in absolute synchronism.

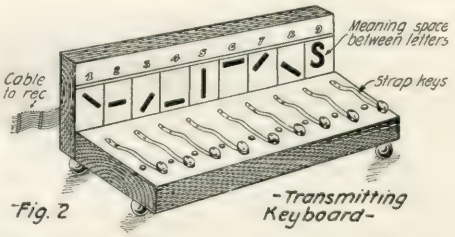
The signals were not transmitted by hand to write or print each component part of a letter, but were transmitted at very high speed over the telegraph circuit by means of a perforated paper tape, such as shown at Fig. 1. The transmitting current was past thru the various contact fingers on to a metal drum thru the perforations in the paper tape, this tape having been previously perforated by a keyboard machine resembling the typewriter.



A—Plan view of type arms.
B—Face of type magnified

Fig. 4—How the Eight Pairs of Electromagnets and Type Bars Are Arranged on the Rogers Printing Telegraph. Also Close-Up View of Type Components.

The experimenter will not be interested in all these elaborate apparatus, but undoubtedly will find of constructional and historical interest the simplest working form of such a machine, even tho he has to push a different key to actuate each of the eight type-bar magnets. A simple transmitting keyboard can be constructed of wood, with ordinary small strap keys fastened on to it, as shown at Fig. 2. There are nine keys instead of eight, the last key being used to space the letters after each individual letter has been completely formed. To use this system the embryo operator, who, of course, thoroly memorizes the different position of the eight component parts of the type-printer, by having these placed either in front or in back of each key, as shown at Fig. 2, he will soon be able to gain quite a headway in transmitting the proper sequence of currents over the cable line to the receiving station.



The Experimenter Can Make a Simple Keyboard For a Printing Telegraph After the Fashion Illustrated. Each Key Prints One Part of the Eight-Character Composition, with One Key For "Spacing."

The system may look quite complicated when looking at the diagram, Fig. 3, but many house and office telephone systems are many more times complicated than this, indeed, and but nine wires are required in the cable. This may even be ordinary double cotton-covered magnet wire, about No. 20 gage, or even finer, if fairly high voltage is available, or twenty to thirty volts. Of course, the longer the cable, the greater the voltage, and the proper voltage can be determined by trial or by calculation, taking into consideration the ohmic resistance of the line. For ordinary telegraphic voltages, the type-bar actuating magnets,

of which eight pairs are required, can easily be made or may be ordinary telegraph sounder magnets. The nine-bladed reversing switches throwing the connections from "send" to "receive" may be easily constructed either in the form of a drum switch, or else from small pieces of copper bar about one-quarter inch by one-sixteenth inch mounted on an insulating rod, such as wood, fiber, etc., and provided with a handle at the end, in the manner shown.

The nine cable wires at each station are secured thru flexible cord, such as small lamp cord, to the nine moving blades of the reversing switch in either case. Ordinary small size switch jaws or contacts could be purchased from any electrical supply house and these can be suitably mounted on either side of the switch, and each side of the nine contacts connected, respectively, to the magnets and spacer relay of the receiving apparatus, and also to the nine keys of the transmitter keyboard.

We find it interesting to next consider the arrangement of the printing head, with its various electro-magnets for controlling their respective components of the letters, as shown at Figs. 4 and 5. The simple eight-character, magnetically operated printing head devised and used by Dr. Rogers marks the earliest successful rapid printing telegraph, see Fig. 4.

A later development comprising ten characters and ten pairs of electro-magnets for operating each type-bar is shown at Fig. 5. In the lower part of Fig. 5, or in the side view, may be seen a spacing relay which also rotates the typewriter ribbon drum so as to keep the ribbon moving in one direction or the other, the same as on a typewriter, and this causes a fresh surface of the ribbon to be successively presented before the type.

A very good arrangement of the typewriter ribbon and relay for spacing the letters or advancing the paper tape, etc., is shown at Fig. 6. The paper tape is here held on a freely moving reel, the same as on the regular telegraph tape registers, this tape passing along underneath the type-bars, each of the eight type members being centrally supported at a common focus or center, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5. A spring or electric motor may be easily rigged up to turn the fiber or other roller, which can be moved into or out of contact with the idler roller, so as to bind the paper tape between them and pull it, whenever the spacer relay causes the two rolls to be prest together, as becomes clearly evident upon inspection of Fig. 6. It is best to place a guide plate with a hole in it slightly larger than necessary to accommodate all of the type members just over the back-up plate and in front of the moving paper tape, the same as on modern typewriters. This helps to prevent the ribbon from smudging the paper. As shown in the apparatus at Fig. 5, the spacer relay may be arranged so as to have its armature operate a pawl or ratchet acting on one or the other of the typewriter ribbon reels, or a gear fastened to the latter, so as to continuously move the ribbon for the purpose aforementioned.

The operation of the system will now be quite clear, here, we believe. For instance, if you wish to transmit a letter from Station A to Station B (at Fig. 3), then the long central line of the type members; the letter "U" will be composed of the No. 5 line, and then imprint 4 and then 5; the letter "N" is composed of number 5, then

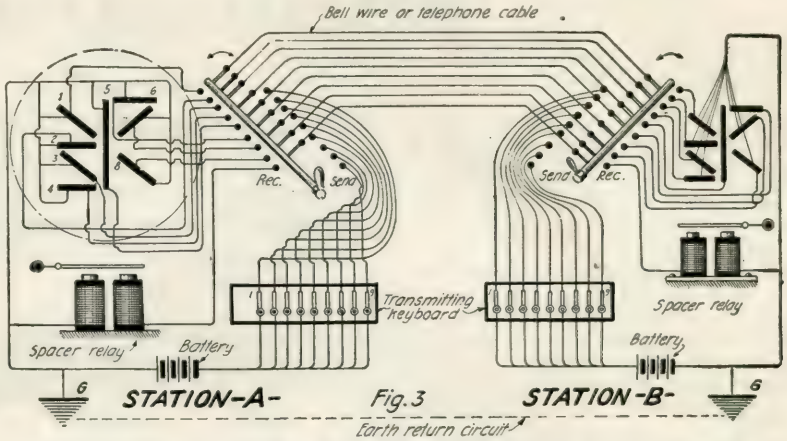


Fig. 3—Simplified Circuit For Printing Telegraph of the Rogers Type. Each Part of the Letter Is Formed by Pressing the Proper Strap Keys at the Transmitting Station, the "Receiver" Being Switched Into Circuit, of Course.

A operator throws his nine-blade reversing line switch to the "send" position to call the B operator (the line-reversing switches are always left in the receiving position normally) by sending Morse code signals or any prearranged dot or dash combination of signals by means of the spacer relay and its corresponding No. 9 key. But as

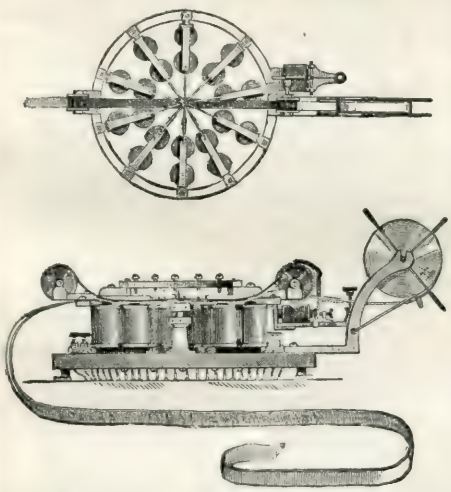


Fig. 5—A Rogers Type Printing Telegraph Having 10 Characters Instead of 8, Together with 10 Pairs of Operating Electromagnets, "Spacing" Relay Magnets, Paper Reel For Tape, Etc.

the B Station apparatus is normally always in readiness to receive messages, it is not necessary to call the B operator unless desired. The A operator will then proceed as follows: Suppose the letter "I" is to be reproduced on the tape at the receiving end of the line, he would then have to press the key No. 5, corresponding to the 1 and 8, then character 5 again. With a little ingenuity this system can be worked out and adapted to many different requirements which the average electrical experimenter may have in mind.

One of the things which has not been worked out in the arrangement shown at Fig. 3 and on which the experimenter can exercise some good gray matter is the development of an accurate interlocking and spacing arrangement, so that he can form the letters properly without too great a space in between them or between the component parts of the letter, and also a scheme whereby he has a tell-tale system so as to know just how the letter looks which he has printed in this way. In other words, like the ordinary telegraph system, where the home station sounder clicks out the dots and dashes as the operator transmits the message.

Those who are particularly interested in the complete operation of the Rogers Printing Telegraph System and the method whereby the transmitter and receiver instruments were synchronized and maintained in synchronism, and also the method of perforating the paper tape with the proper sequence of signals in order that the correct and consecutive impressions of the type characters are formed, will do well to look up some of the patents on this system. Dr. Rogers originally discovered and provided a simple synchronizing means between the transmitting and receiving instruments, placed at the opposite ends of long telegraph lines, and which proved very successful in their trials, which consisted in causing each motor at every revolution to record its movements on the rim of the opposite revolving wheel by the appearance of an electric spark, this furnishing the visual indication of the synchronous or non-synchronous position of the motors. The U. S. Patent covering this most ingenious invention bears the number 358,753.

The electrical apparatus for punching holes in the paper tape and which is adjustable to any ordinary typewriting machine bears U. S. Patent No. 412,001. Patent No. 420,358 covers the printing device made of eight primary type members and electro-magnets for actuating the same in the manner outlined in the present article. Patent No. 524,118 describes the automatic moving carriage which holds and turns the paper page; also many improvements in the manner of operating the eight type arms with a single electric relay, instead of one relay for each type arm. Those interested in machines of this type will do very well indeed to procure copies of these patents from which they will learn a great deal.

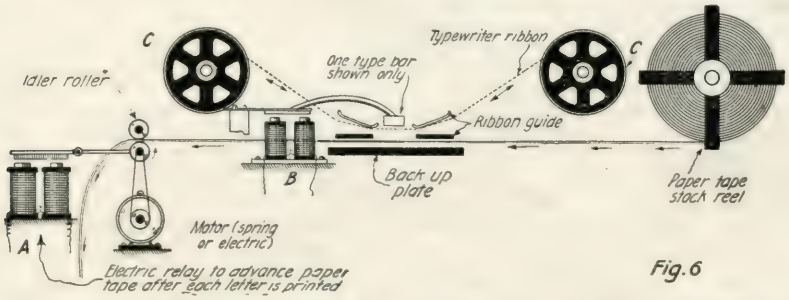


Fig. 6—Working Diagram Showing the Principal Parts of the Printing Telegraph, Here Described, in Detail. Only One of the Eight Printing Type Bars Is Shown For the Sake of Simplicity.

Building "Your Own" Phonograph

Part I

Full Details Describing How to Build Motor, Turn-Table, Tone Arm, Reproducer and Sound Chamber

TODAY, the phonograph or talking machine has become so much simplified and standardized, and there are such a great variety of parts available on the market, that many people have found great pleasure in building their own phonographs.

In the present article, the writer will endeavor to present the practical aspects of building one's own phonograph, which he has learned thru considerable experience in building several of his own, one of which is used for parlor use and two others for laboratory experimental work, where "looks don't count."

One of the main things to be considered in building your own phonograph, usually, is that you do not want a cheap looking machine so far as external appearance is concerned, if it is to be used in the parlor or living room for family entertainment. It is very simple now to purchase a small table cabinet at a cost of a few dollars, up to a full size 50" floor cabinet with sound chamber already built in it for the price of anywhere from $25.00 up to $50.00 or more, depending upon how ornate a cabinet you may desire. Then to tickle the heart of the "how-to-make-it" bug, there are dozens of different makes of motors, tone arms and what not, available from numerous dealers.

However, an effort will be made in the present treatise to provide sufficient instruction and detail so that those who like to feel the real thrill and enjoymnt of building the "whole works" and perhaps the cabinet too, can do so; as the only things you cannot make just yet, are the records.

SOMETHING ABOUT PHONOGRAPH MOTORS.

A typical high grade phonograph motor is shown at Fig. 1, and if you are not already familiar with the operating features of such a motor, you can learn a great deal by carefully studying this drawing. Practically all regular phonograph motors are of the spring propelled type, and contain anywhere from one to four or more barrels or cylinders in which are placed powerful steel springs about the size of those in an 8-day clock, but somewhat longer, which are packed in grafite and oil. The power is transmitted from the springs once they have been wound by means of the handle and ratchet in the well-known manner, to a train of toothed gears and which include an automatic *speed governor* and *regulator*. Details of this speed governor which you may want to build yourself, if you already have some other form of power such as an electric motor or a gravity motor for the purpose of rotating the turn-table, are given at Fig. 2.

Phonographs, like every other piece of machinery, should be kept oiled at all of the bearing points and about once a year it is well to see that the springs are thoroly lubricated and packed in grafite and oil, which mixture is available from phonograph manufacturers. New springs are also available from these companies or thru phonograph dealers. It is important to note in connection with the phonograph motor shown at Fig. 1, that the main turn-table shaft doesn't rest on its regular shoulder bearing, but has a foot-step or pivoted bearing placed under it, which is fastened to the main frame.

It is surprising what a difference this makes, as the writer found in improving a small spring motor which he used in his first experimental machine. When the motor would run a 10-inch record scarcely at all, the same motor ran off the record in fine style, when a polisht steel plate bearing was rigidly secured under the lower end of the main turn-table shaft, the end of this shaft being rounded off or crown shaped And of course, if you take the trouble to make a cup-shape bearing under the shaft, and place a ball-bearing on it, you will get still better results.

With regard to the automatic speed regulator and governor you will soon learn, if you are not already familiar with phonograph matters and phonographs in general, that one of the most important things is that the speed of the turn-table must be as constant as possible, and further—that you will want to change the speed now and then for various records. The average speed for flat disc type records, is about 68 revolutions per minute. This can be timed either by means of a speed indicator held in contact with the center stud of the turn-table as it revolves, or else by placing a chalk mark on the felt cover of the turn-table and counting the revolutions for a half or full minute by means of your watch. If you cannot procure a governor to use in connection with your electric or gravity motor, or perhaps to regulate the spring motor such as that from a large discarded clock movement, etc., you can, with a little ingenuity, readily build one. Details of the standard three-ball governor are shown clearly at Fig. 2.

Two brass collars are usually made, which fit the shaft with a very even clearance. One of these has a set screw threaded thru it so that it can be secured tightly to the governor shaft, while the other collar has a perfectly flat brass or steel disc about 1/16" thick and 1½" in diameter, rigidly secured to it. Both hubs should have three spots filed on them at exactly 120 degrees apart, and three holes drilled and threaded in each for about No. 6-32 thread machine screws, to be used to hold the ends of the three steel governor springs as shown in the figure. For a small size governor, these springs may be pieces of corset steel, etc., and may measure about 5/32" in width by 1/64" thick. The weights on them may be round or of cylinder shape and if made of lead, steel or iron, they may measure about 7/16" in diameter by 3/16" in thickness. These weights must be secured to the exact center of the three governor springs, either by riveting or by means of a 6-32 screw threaded into the weights.

The speed control lever with its felt brush is shown clearly in the drawing and this presents no difficulty in construction. The action of the governor is now quite apparent, the three balls or weights tending to fly outward and make a larger circle as the motor speeds up, and vice-versa by moving the speed regulator screw. The felt shoe bearing against the brass disc mounted on the free hub of the governor will retard the further movement of this disc, so that the weights can only fly out a certain distance and thus keep the speed down to whatever limit may be desired. The hub at the opposite end of the governor is tightly secured to the shaft and it is best to "spot" the shaft with a drill or file where the set screw it to rest.

BUILDING A GRAVITY MOTOR.

One of the finest motors used in telegraph recorder and similar work, is the gravity operated motor. This motor, for one thing, possesses the characteristic of giving very constant speed, more so than the spring motor where the power of the spring is constantly decreasing as the motor unwinds. The force of gravity or pull exerted on a given weight is constant, and thus, as long as the weight is in action, the pull exerted on the gears and turn-table or other devices propelled by the gears, is constant also.

Fig. 3 shows the principal parts which may be used in building a gravity motor. The gears may be the same or in fact the identical gears in an old phonograph motor, or other mechanism. You will require either the two-ball or preferably the three-ball governor to keep the speed under control, and even. The weight used to actuate the motor may comprise one large size boulder (Belgian blocks will do just as good work) also pig-iron or any other good *hefty* scrap. Even a large can of water, etc., or pail full of sand can be used.

The whole secret of the gravity motor is this: You wind up the heavy weight, say 50 to 75 pounds, slowly, by means of the handle attached to the ratchet and drum, but no ratchet is required if you do not happen to have one, and this weight moves very slowly in its downward descent.

You can usually figure out the ratio of the gear teeth and the comparative drop or fall of the weight for any train of gears, by consulting any machine shop or mechanics' manual.

The governor can be mounted on its own shaft and geared to the main train of gears as shown in one of the figures, or it may be mounted on the main turn-table shaft; and there are several other ways in which it can be connected to the main gear train so as to regulate the speed.

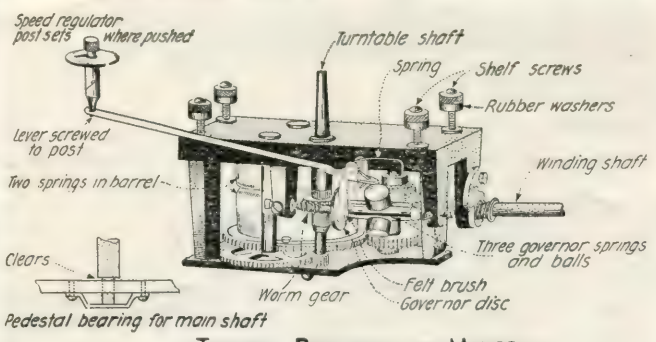
(*Continued on page 572*)

MAKING PHONOGRAPHS

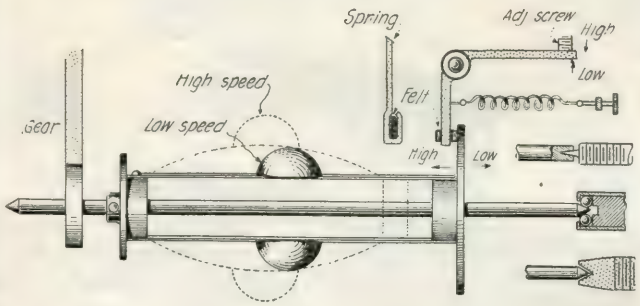
TO build your own phonograph, may sound like a very difficult problem to those who have never experimented in this direction before, but once you have started and succeeded in building your first model, you will find it one of the most fascinating and interesting endeavors you have yet ventured into. Just to build your own phonograph is not the whole story, as there is a good opportunity to build phonographs for others. There is one fine feature about building your own phonograph today, and that is you do not have to experiment and develop your own motor, or in fact your own tone arm or anything else among the machine parts proper, as these can be readily obtained from the innumerable phonograph supply companies advertising in this and other publications.

The future of the phonograph is thoroly assured, but not with the present type of machine, it is prophesied by scientists and engineers; who predict that the talking machine of tomorrow will be a marvelous mechanism indeed, not only for its simplicity but for its purity of note and fidelity of reproduction of the human voice. The experimenter of today, therefore, has one of the finest opportunities ever given to anyone to invent something "real new" in the realm of talking machines. The present talking machine is not perfect by any means, and the "germ" of the perfect talking machine which everyone desires, has yet to be discovered.

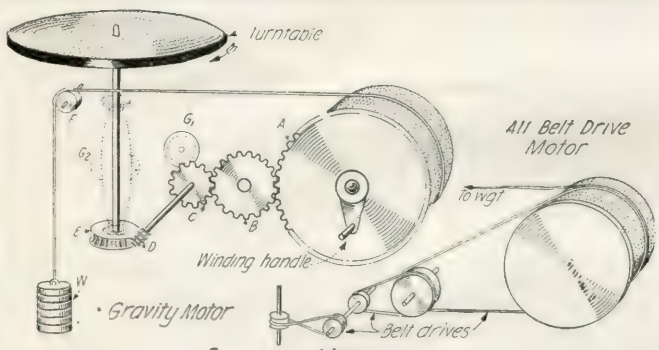
BUILDING "YOUR OWN" PHONOGRAPH



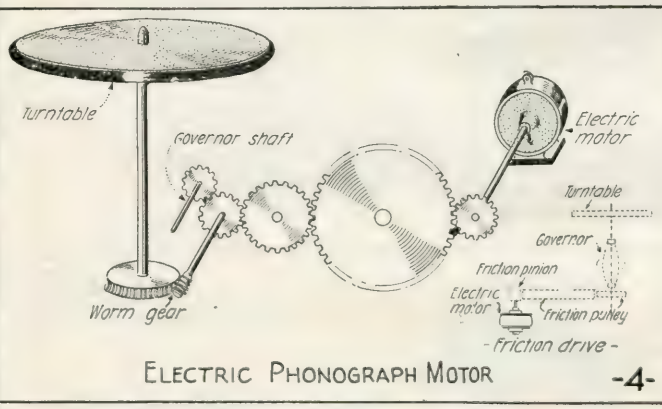
TYPICAL PHONOGRAPH MOTOR -1-



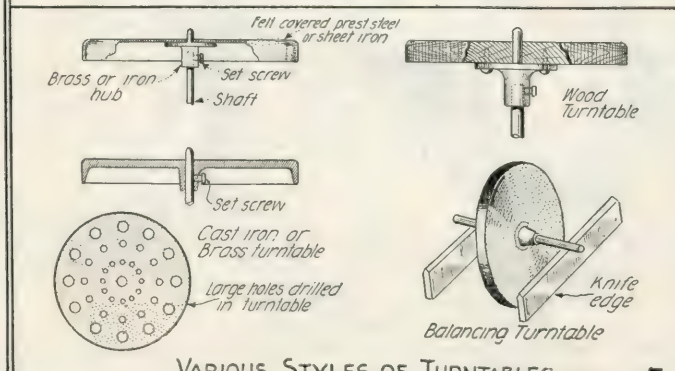
DETAIL OF PHONOGRAPH GOVERNOR -2-



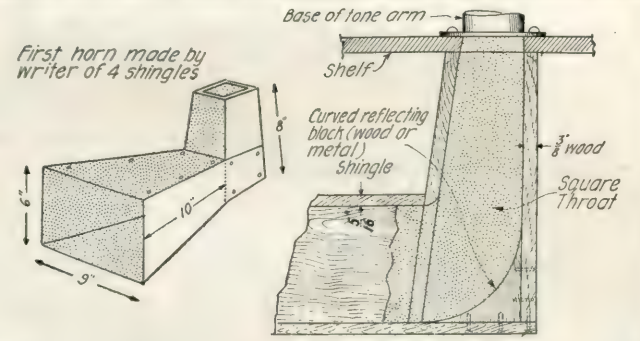
GRAVITY MOTOR -3-



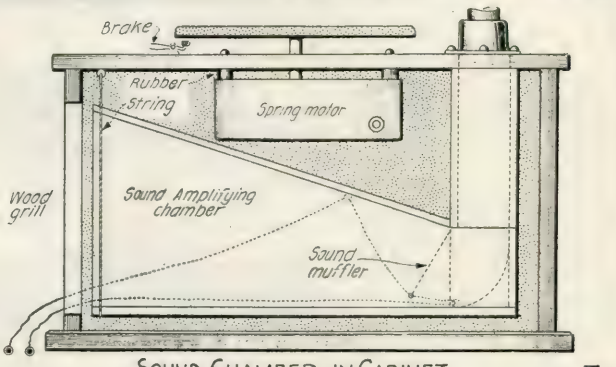
ELECTRIC PHONOGRAPH MOTOR -4-



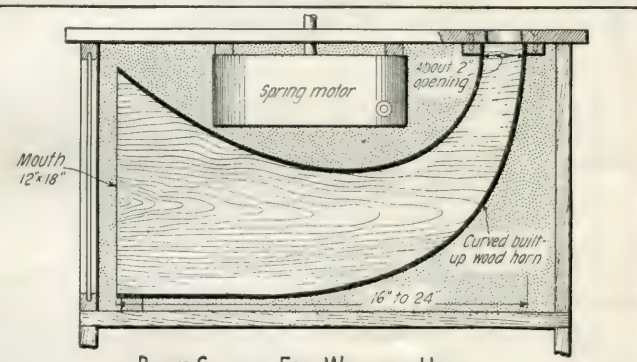
VARIOUS STYLES OF TURNTABLES -5-



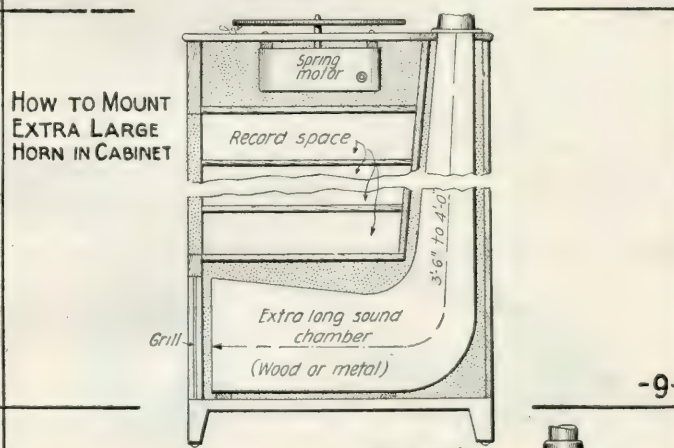
THE SHINGLE SOUND CHAMBER -6-



SOUND CHAMBER IN CABINET -7-



BEST SHAPE FOR WOODEN HORN -8-



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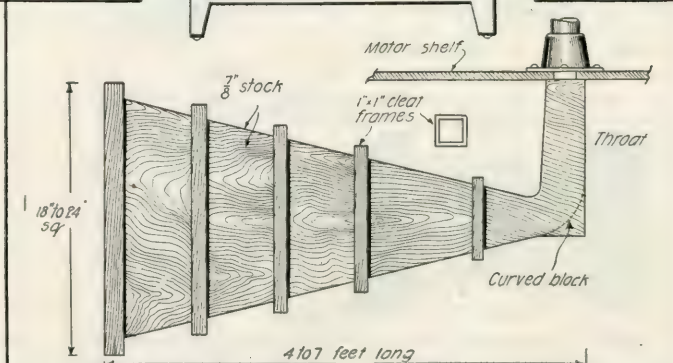


LARGE EXHIBITION STYLE HORN BUILT OF WOOD -10-

Electrical Machinist

By H. WINFIELD SECOR

NO. 11—REPAIRING ELECTRIC FANS.

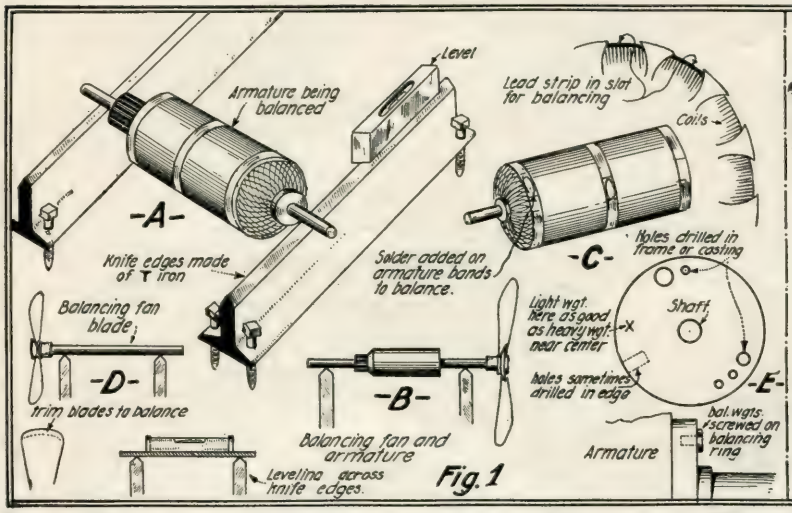


Fig. 1. Shows Some of the Various Operations and Methods Employed in Balancing Fan and Motor Armatures in General. The Armature Is Balanced By Placing It On Two Leveled Knife Edges, and Weighted Until It Will Remain in Any Position.

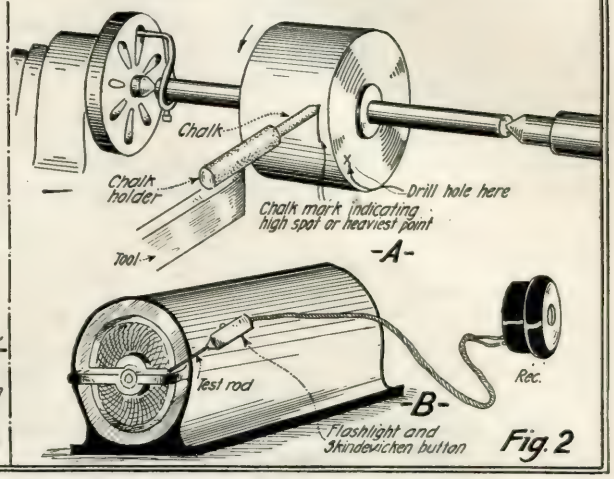


Fig. 2. Two Other Methods of Balancing Rotating Masses Are Here Shown at "A" and "B". Method "A" Involves the Rapid Rotation of the Mass in a Lathe and a Chalk Marker, While Method "B" Utilizes the Principle of Vibration and a Stethescope.

THE following remarks on the repairing of electric fan-motors would also apply to the repairing and assembly of small motors of all types, particularly those of the fractional horsepower class. There are many interesting points to be watched in the repairing of even such small electric motors as those used for driving fans, and by watching these various important factors, much dissatisfaction is avoided—both on the part of those having repairs made, and also with regard to those wishing to realize the highest efficiency and noiseless operation of fans.

BALANCING ARMATURE AND FAN BLADES.

In many electrical repair shops, no attention is given to the proper balancing of such small armatures as those found in ceiling and desk fan-motors, rated at approximately ⅛ and 1/16 horsepower, respectively, but if this is not done, then the fan is very likely to make a considerable noise and operate unsatisfactorily in other ways. Of course, the fan blade itself must be balanced also, and preferably it should be balanced when mounted on the shaft of the armature as shown at Fig. 1.

At Fig. 1-A may be seen how two knife edges, constructed from short lengths of "T" iron and provided with 3 or 4 leveling screws threaded thru the lower web, are arranged on the bench so that they can be leveled up in both directions, with an accurate machinist's level. By means of a steel straight edge, if the level itself will not span across the two knife edges when set at the proper distance apart to receive the armature, the two edges are lined up perfectly level with respect to one another, i. e.—crosswise. The two knife edges should then be lined up individually with the level by adjusting the four screws in the manner apparent. The armature shaft rests on the two knife edges as shown at Fig. 1-A and pieces of flat lead may be pusht or driven into the tops of the slots as shown at "C", care being taken to see that a piece of thin fibre or heavy paper rests on top of the coil, so that the wire in the slot will not be cut, and these balanced weights are placed on the *light* side of the armature repeatedly, until it will rest on the leveled knife edges *in any position to which it may be turned by hand.* When it will rest at *any point* along the knife edges when turned to successive positions by hand it may be considered as properly *balanced.*

At B is shown how the fan blade is balanced simultaneously with the armature. At D, a single fan blade is balanced by mounting it on a steel shaft and then placing it upon the leveled knife edges. Fan blades are balanced either by placing solder on the hub on the *light* side, or else by trimming the metal off the outer end of the *heavy* blade with a pair of tin-snips. Small holes are sometimes drilled in the hub or in the outer end of the blade on the *heavy* side. If the end of the blade is cut off, this of course also occurs on the *heavy* side, that is, the side which tends to swing to the bottom each time.

After carefully watching the blade and adjusting the weight by cutting or soldering, etc., you will find that the blade will rest in any position you may place it *without turning to a new position by itself.* It is then *balanced* and under proper conditions will rotate at the speed for which the fan was designed with the minimum of

(*Continued on page* 528)

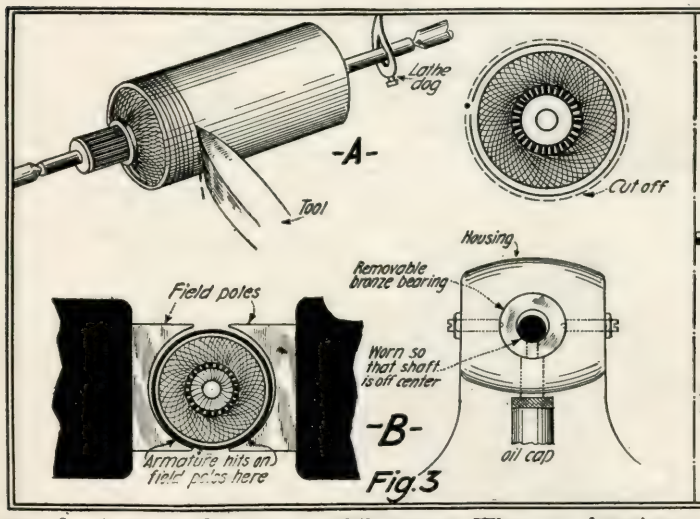


Fig. 3. Some of the Things That Happen When an Armature Strikes the Field Poles and the Methods of Overcoming This Trouble Are Here Illustrated. Small Armatures Are Often Placed in the Lathe and a Cut Taken Across the Perifery of the Core as Shown at "A". Fig. "B" Shows How Worn Bearings Cause the Armature to Drop and Hit the Pole-Shoes.

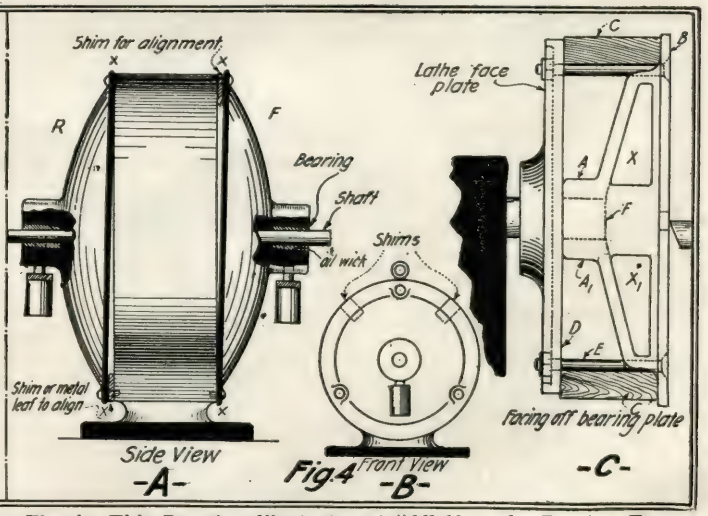


Fig. 4. This Drawing Illustrates at "A" How the Bearing Frames On Electrical Machines Sometimes Have to Be "Shimmied" Out in Order that the Armature Can Turn Freely. At "C" Is Shown a Method of Mounting A Bearing Frame On the Lathe Face-Plate For Machining.

The "Vibro Whip"

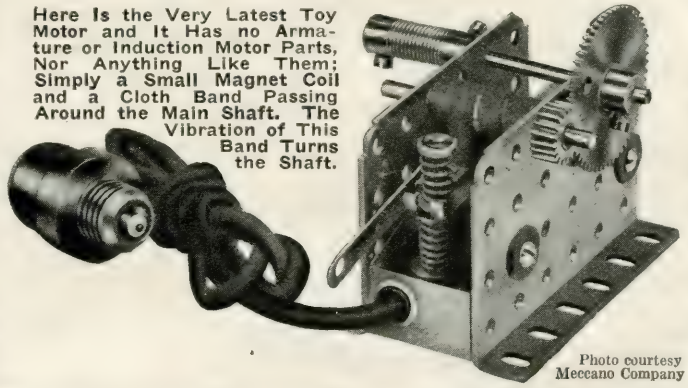
A Motor Freak

By O. C. ROOS

IT is a long time since most of us used the whip-top of childhood days. We can easily remember how hard it was to give it the initial spinning twist with the right hand, to prevent a wobble and sudden spin on its side! At last it stood shakily for a precious half second, and we whipped it with frenzied haste only to knock it down again. We had to repeat the performance until bitter experience taught us moderation, and we finally kept the top spinning with short, rapidly repeated "wiping" strokes. It was a lesson in life.

Who would think that this toy would give a new prime mover to the scientific and engineering world. Yet it is a fact that small motors are now being tried out for phonographs and other small moderate speed machines, and these motors are really "whip-top" motors.

It is the purpose of this article to show the final elements first, giving in Fig. 1 the essential parts of the apparatus and then showing their relation to the whip-top in bare outline, so that the principle underlying this very curious prime mover may be rendered obvious, when the mechanics of the whip-top are understood.



Here Is the Very Latest Toy Motor and It Has no Armature or Induction Motor Parts, Nor Anything Like Them; Simply a Small Magnet Coil and a Cloth Band Passing Around the Main Shaft. The Vibration of This Band Turns the Shaft.

Photo courtesy Meccano Company

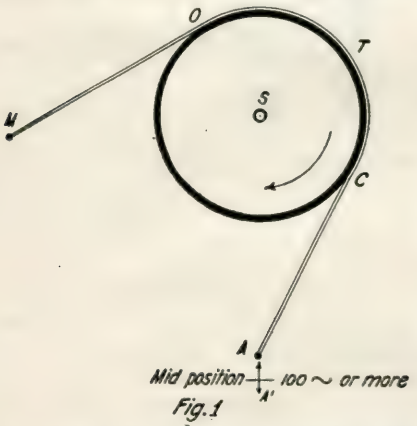


Fig. 1

Fig. 1—The "Vibro Whip," Described by Mr. Roos, Is Based on the Principle of the Old "Whip-Top," Which We Used to Spin in Our Boyhood Days, and the Action of Which Is Partly Shown in the Above Figure—the Band Around the Drum "S" Being Pulled and Released Alternately in the Direction A-A¹.

In Fig. 1 are shown the essential parts of the apparatus. They are:

1st—A fixed rotatable shaft—S.

2nd—A flexible partly extensible, friction-band MOTCA.

3rd—A vibratory motion in the point A, of such a periodic character that it causes the band MOTCA to alternately grip and release the shaft S several hundred times per second. There are strict requirements prompting the special motion of the point A.

These can best be presented by showing *how and how not* to construct the elements in Fig. 1.

1st—The point A must have a special type of motion, otherwise its power to drag or "whip" the shaft in one steady direction is zero. It must *not* in general be simple harmonic.

2nd—This motion must be so arranged when in Fig. 1 the point A reaches A_1 and starts to *return* toward A again, that the whole band will loosen up around OTC, or at least a part of that distance before A_1 reaches A. It must *not* be so slow that the rotating shaft will catch and "bind" it before A_1 reaches A. In other words the *suddenness* of the *necessary* "crack-the-whip" effect at A_1 on the return to A depends on the speed of the shaft S to some extent.

If we did *not* specify these requirements, Fig. 1 would not work. That's all there's to it! We would have, with simple harmonic motion at AA^1, the conditions shown at Fig. 2, where the friction band BB is held continuously against the shaft by the spring action of the band, represented by an "equivalent spring" P fastened to the band B and the fixed point F. When A^1 moves to A and back *there is simply oscillation of the shaft,* and nothing more. A fine motor that would make!

It is realized that the above description is only general in character and that the younger experimenter wants to know the real mechanism of the whip-top before the above results can be made perfectly clear to him. For his benefit then the following non-technical analysis of the whip-top is given, followed by a still simpler analysis of the actual operation of the "crack-the-whip" phenomenon on a driving-shaft.

THE WHIP-TOP.

In Fig. 3 we have five views of a whip-top, S, giving a "moving picture" story of its behaviors and that of the whip, with handle at H. We see the first whip-stroke at view 1, where the small curved arrow in S shows the initial twist given to the top, as the whip in position 1 strikes it. The second view shows the top moving bodily to the left, as indicated by the arrow at S, with increased rotation and changed direction of the handle H, more toward the bottom of the page.

The third view shows the tip of the whip quite curled up around the top, whose rotation is increased, but whose bodily motion along the ground is now almost in the same direction as that of the whip handle H. The fourth view shows this last motion fully accomplisht with the top rapidly spinning and moving toward the bottom of the page.

The final view shows the top asleep—no bodily motion—and the whip being *properly* applied with a small motion at point toward the top, and a large "wiping" motion of the whip as shown by the large arrow. The handle has now practically a vertical motion relative to the page.

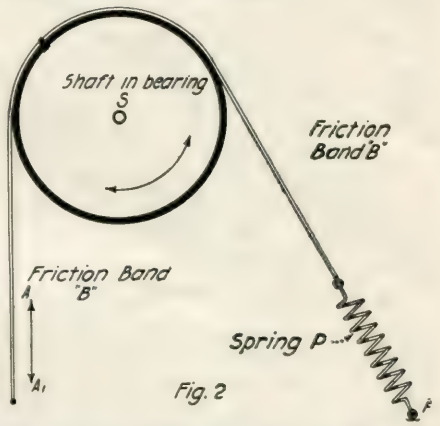


Fig. 2

Fig. 2—The Motion Required to Cause the Whip-Top Action to Take Place Must Not Be Harmonic, But Irregular in a Fashion. The Arrangement Shown Here Would Give Simple Harmonic Motion, and the Shaft "S" Would Simply Oscillate and Not Revolve.

Now, if in the last view, we could suddenly fasten the spinning top in ball bearings and could move H back and forth—as shown in this same view—with a *proper* motion, keeping the other end of the whip fastened somewhat as in view III, we would have the general arrangement of the vibro-whip elements, which we have shown in Fig. 1.

By having the shaft S, fixt, we have a fixt top, and can follow the action by studying Fig. 4 by taking a heavy fork with an electrical driver as shown, we see that the driven fork whips the shaft so that at each complete vibration of the fork the band MOTCA advances the shaft thru an arc equivalent to a small circular motion—about .02" in some cases.

(*Continued on page* 560)

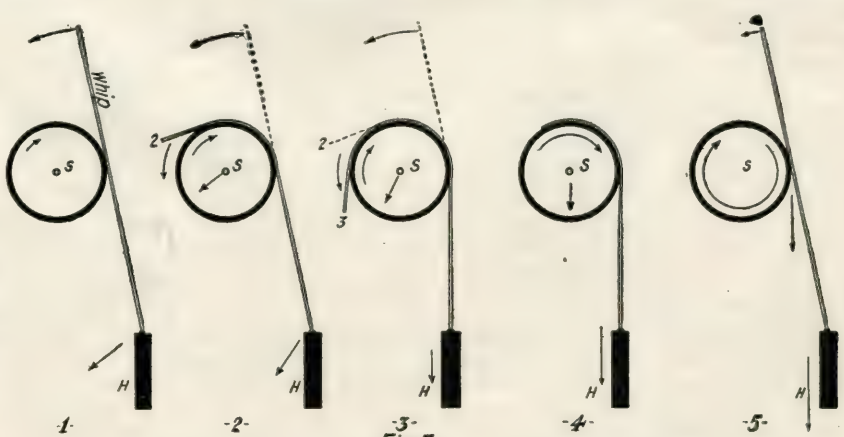


Fig. 3

Fig. 3—This Shows Five Successive Stages of the Whip-Top "S," Giving a Motion Picture Story of Its Behavior and That of the Whip with the Handle at "H."

HOW-TO-MAKE-IT

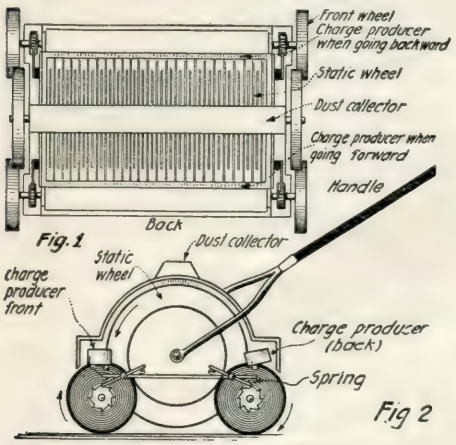
This department will award the following monthly prizes: First prize, $5.00; Second Prize, $3.00; Third Prize, $2.00.
The purpose of this department is to stimulate experimenters toward accomplishing new things with old apparatus or old material, and for the most useful, practical and original idea submitted to the Editors of this department, a monthly series of prizes will be awarded. For the best idea submitted a prize of $5.00 is awarded; for the second best idea a $3.00 prize, and for the third best a prize of $2.00. The article need not be very elaborate, and rough sketches are sufficient. We will make the mechanical drawings. Use only one side of sheet. Make sketches on separate sheets.

FIRST PRIZE, $5.00

AN ELECTRIC CARPET SWEEPER.

I found that when a Victor record was rubbed with cat's fur, it had the power to attract any small articles which were found on a rug.

The static wheel (see Fig. 1) is made of a number of ten-cent records and is rotated the opposite way from the wheels which propel it. The static wheel has a charge producer on both sides which is



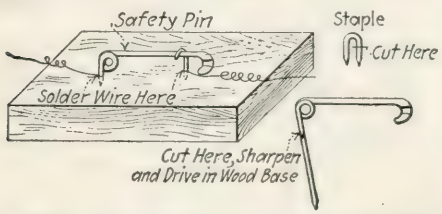
Here's How to Make an Electric Carpet Sweeper of the Static Type. It Is Readily Built From Old Phonograph Records, and the Small, Ten-Cent Variety Will Do.

made of cat's fur and rubs the static wheel giving it an electric charge. At the top of the sweeper there is a dust collector which collects the dust from the wheel. The dust collector is a brush with cotton wool wound around the bristles. The charge producers are changed as the carpet sweeper goes backward and forward (see diagram 2). This carpet sweeper is used like any other one would be; only when the cotton wool is dirty it must be changed for a new one.

Contributed by
JOHN BATLES SWANN.

"SAFETY-PIN" SWITCH.

I give herewith a rough sketch of a "safety-pin" switch for the "How to Make It" hounds. It is simple and saves the



A Nifty Little Battery Switch Suitable For Bell and Other Circuits and Which Creates a Positive Contact; It Is Made From the Ladies' Greatest Friend—the Safety Pin.

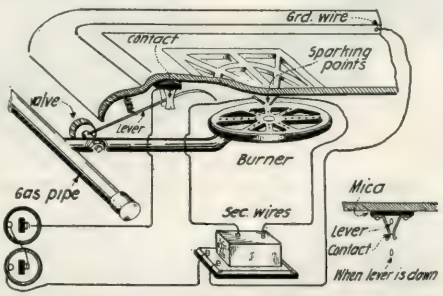
worry of how to close battery circuits when no suitable switches are available. Excellent for bell circuits, and mind that the contact is positive, owing to the spring tension exerted by the pin bar.

Contributed by REUBEN HORN.

SECOND PRIZE, $3.00

AUTOMATIC GAS STOVE IGNITER.

This device is designed for a gas stove, so that when a kettle is set upon it, the



This Automatic Electric Igniter For Gas Stoves Employs a ¼- to ½-Inch Spark Coil, the Primary Circuit of Which Is Momentarily Energized as the Gas Valve and Its Attached Contact Lever Is Turned to the "On" Position.

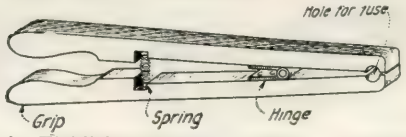
burner lights automatically without a match. The principal thing about this device is that when putting the kettle on the gas stove it pushes down a lever that makes it come in contact with two springs, as shown, thus putting the coil in circuit whose secondary spark ignites the gas. The secondary wires are run thru insulators in the side of the stove. When the receptacle is removed a spring pulls the lever back, cutting off the gas and the current. When the lever is pushed down it turns on the gas at the same time it passes (momentarily) thru the contacts, so that the coil is only used for a second or two. Time should be allowed for the gas to get to the burner and so to the points.

Contributed by
ROOSEVELT STONER.

A SIMPLE CARTRIDGE FUSE PULLER.

This useful device can be constructed from a piece of wood with dimensions as follows: 10" x 1½" x 1½". First a hole is drilled a quarter of an inch in diameter, an eighth of an inch from the top. The next thing to do is to make a rectangular opening six inches below the hole and half an inch from each side. This opening should be half an inch long and quarter of an inch wide. The piece of wood is then sawed in two, lengthwise. Next these two pieces are put together by means of a hinge three inches below the hole at the top. After this a strong spring is fitted in the rectangular opening and a nail five eighths of an inch long is driven in from each side to hold the spring in place. The ends may be rounded out to make a convenient handle. This simple device will be found handy for store and home use.

Contributed by MORRIS WALLERZ.



It Is Ticklish Business at Best to Remove Cartridge Fuses on "Live" Circuits, and This Suggestion of a Wooden or Fibre Fuse Remover Is, Indeed, Welcome.

THIRD PRIZE, $2.00

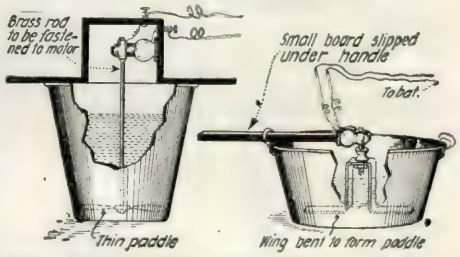
MOTOR FOR STIRRING LIQUIDS.

I am sending in to the "How to Make It Department" an idea that I have used successfully. All those who have had to stir catsup or other preserves while boiling down will appreciate it. I am giving sketches for two kinds. A small toy (series wound) motor was used. The long end of the shaft is threaded.

An eight-volt motor will make about 32 R.P.M. in catsup. The motor needs no more support than shown, as it revolves so slowly.

If the motor windings are soaked in paraffine the steam will not injure them.

Contributed by JOHN ROTCHKA.

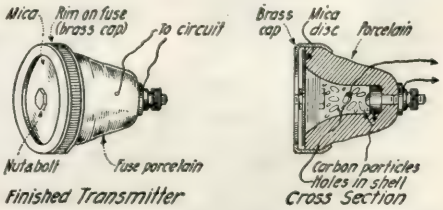


Why Not Put That Small Battery Motor to Work? Here Is an Ideal Purpose For Which Mother and the Girls Will Surely Bless You. Rig It Up to Serve as a Motor "Stirring" Handyman by Means of a Small Paddle, as Shown.

A FUSE PLUG MICROPHONE.

Herewith I submit a plan for a simple telephone transmitter which when used gives a very clear tone. The shell is a discarded fuse-plug without a contact end on it, and the hole in which the fuse metal enters should be cleaned out, the brass screw shell on the outside having been removed.

Remove the mica cover and brass cap, without injuring them so they can be put on again. The carbon discs are made by sawing them off from battery carbons and shaping them to fit. The shell is then filled with carbon grains (buy them at any electrical supply house or visit your local telephone exchange and get acquainted with the "wire chief"—don't bother with broken up carbon bits) and the fuse cap and mica put on. The wire from the upper carbon disc goes out thru the hole in the shell.

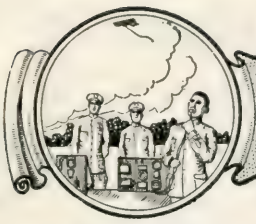


A Clever Wrinkle in Building Your Own Microphones. This Particular One Is Built From a Porcelain Fuse Plug. If You Want Success, Use Polisht Carbon Granules and "Not" Pieces of Broken Arc Light Carbons.

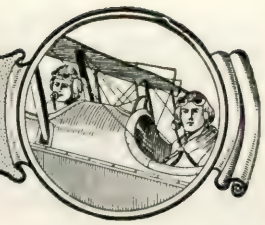
Ground coke has been used satisfactorily in the transmitter.

The lower part can be punched out very easily.

Contributed by
ARTHUR A. HUMPHREY.



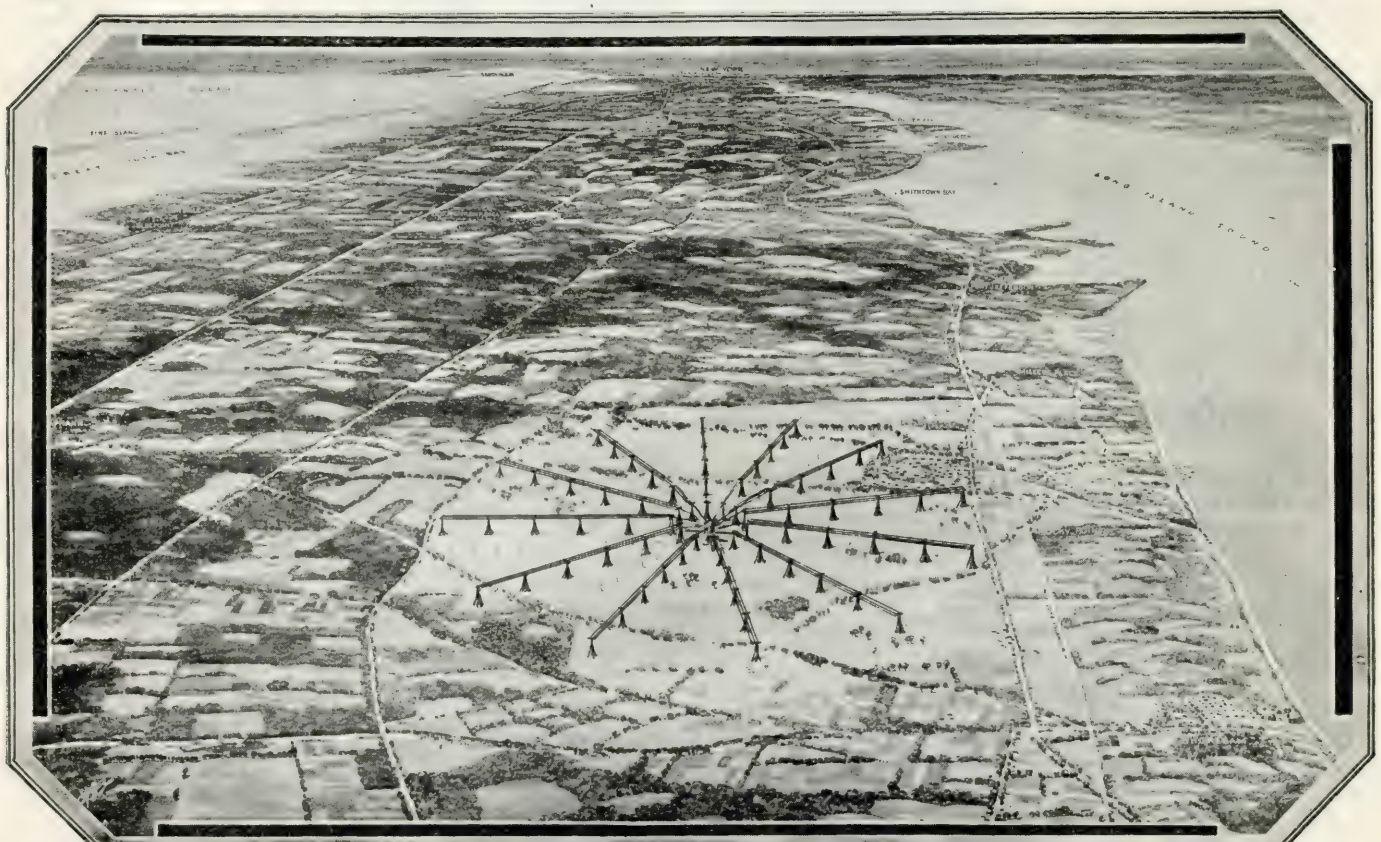
RADIO DEPARTMENT



A Giant Radio Central Station

Description of a 2000 Kilowatt Radio Station To Be Erected on Long Island

FOR more than two decades the wonders of wireless have so unceasingly intrigued the public imagination that it would appear little remained to be accomplisht in developments of revolutionary character. Yet, once again, it is disclosed that a startling conception in wireless communication has been quietly brought to a point of realization. On the north shore of Long Island, near New York, the Radio Corporation of America is about to begin construction of a super-powered radio station that will simultaneously send to and receive messages from five great nations of other continents.



The World's Most Powerful Central Radio Station, Rated at 2000 Kilowatts, To Be Constructed at Port Jefferson, Long Island, by the Radio Corporation of America. View Looking Toward New York City, Showing Giant Antenna System Supported on 400-Foot Masts.

The bare announcement presages a new era in commercial radio communication. It is one conceived in the convention-defying spirit which, coupled with engineering skill, has brought about the expansion of wireless to its present status as a world-wide public utility. Instantly obvious is the fact that the plan will result in the contribution of an important means of breaking down America's isolation from the peoples of certain other continents and open up visions of communication possibilities which, thru inherent limitations, could never be realized by the undersea cables.

The new and great medium of far-reaching economic and political influence will bear the name of *New York Radio Central Station*, the steel towers of which will arise on a 6,400-acre tract, comprising nearly ten square miles of land lying east of Port Jefferson, with a long frontage on Long Island Sound. The preliminary engineering studies have been completed, contracts for all the construction materials are being let, and a force of radio experts, after months of preparation, will immediately take the big job in hand.

A definite idea of the ultra-modern character of this radio plant may be gained from the observations of Edward J. Nally, president of the Radio Corporation of America, under whose direction the world-wide wireless system has emerged from an idea into a reality. "Everyone at all familiar with wireless," said Mr. Nally, "knows that at Nauen, Germany, and Bordeaux, France, are two of the largest stations in the world. Up to now they have been viewed with admiration; consider, then, the tremendous advance represented in this latest step; the New York Radio Central Station in the aggregate, *will be five times more powerful than either of these.*"

He explained that there will be five complete transmitters, each one a duplex unit with a corresponding receiving station located nearby. *All five transmitters and the five receivers will operate simultaneously and will transmit and receive messages over thousands of miles* continuously during day and night.

"New York will be the direct focal point of world's intelligence in an entirely new sense under this communication scheme," he continued. "As soon as the station is completed immediate message service will be establisht with France and Germany to supplement the existing commercial circuits; ultimately, radio from this station will connect up Buenos Aires and other points in South America, and ether-wave messages will be flashing to and from Poland, Sweden, Denmark and other European countries. Like the ripples that race in circles over a pond when a stone is dropt in the water, the electromagnetic waves from this station will soon encompass practically the whole of the civilized globe. It is a plant that dwarfs all existing wireless stations into insignificance.

AERIAL TWO INCHES IN DIAMETER.

The form of aerial construction, too, is wholly a new departure. From the central power house six spans of aerial wire will radiate out in a star pattern, to a distance of more than one mile from the center. The wires of this huge antenna will be

(*Continued on page* 567)

New De Forest Buzzer Radiophone

A NEW buzzer Radiophone transmitter for operation on two six-volt storage batteries is the latest feature which has recently been placed on the market. This requires no "B" or secondary battery of a high voltage whatsoever, and will prove ideal for all small portable work, the set being readily placed upon motorcycles, and very small power boats or automobiles as well as on the larger craft. The total weight is about sixty pounds which is, we believe, the nearest approach to a practical commercial light-weight set ever before seen. Dr. de Forest, who has originated the device, has given a demonstration of it and claims a range of at least 10 miles, altho it will talk much further; and the speech heard is clearer than with his well-known 110-volt A. C. set.

The operation of it is quite simple. He incorporates into the device a transformer which operates on one of the storage batteries as do likewise the two rectifier bulbs which are the ordinary vacuum tubes procurable wherever radio instruments are sold. This transformer is slightly different from the regular spark coil type inasmuch as the vibrator is of a rocker-arm style and two cores are in the transformer proper. Thus when one side of the vibrator is attracted, the other side is away from the magnet. Whereupon the other side is immediately attracted and the first side moves away, just like the two pans on a balance or scale; when one is up the other is down. In this way a complete difference in phase of 180 degrees is obtained. The current is then stept up and rectified by the two audion bulbs which act here as rectifiers. One bulb only is used for transmitting purposes and is not of any special type. A lever on the side of the cabinet is thrown to the position marked "talk" whereupon the buzzer commences to vibrate and the outfit is placed in use for transmission purposes. When the switch handle is thrown in the opposite direction and the buzzer stops and the rectifying tubes suddenly go out, then the complete conversation from the distant wireless 'phone station can be heard. With an antenna having a capacity of .002 M.F. to .007 M.F. a radiofrequency current of 200 milliamperes is actually put into the antenna.

On the front of the cabinet are mounted the transmitter, the three tubes, a stopping condenser, a variable condenser and a milliammeter, together with a switch for changing the connections quickly.

The Very Latest in Radiophone Sets. It Talks on Two Six-Volt Storage Batteries—No "B" Battery Required. Just the Thing for Motorboats, Camping Parties, Motorcycle, Automobile or Airplane.

A Direct-Reading Microfaradmeter

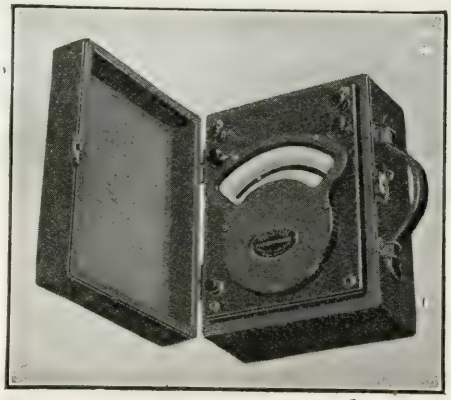
The increased use of condensers for a great variety of purposes has created a demand for a means of determining their capacity accurately and quickly. There has been a long-felt want for a more satisfactory means of determining the capacity of telephone, telegraph and power lines and cables, and altho many methods have been devised for measuring electrostatic capacity, some of them dating back to the pioneer days in the electrical art, there has not been a completely satisfactory means of accurately determining the capacity with ease and rapidity demanded by numerous commercial requirements, until this microfaradmeter was produced.

When the facility and precision with which capacity measurements may now be made with this new instrument is appreciated by engineers, much more attention will undoubtedly be devoted to them than has been commercially possible in the past.

To use this meter, it is only necessary to connect two of the four binding posts on its top to a suitable source of alternating current and the other two binding posts to the capacity to be measured, press the contact key and note the deflection of the pointer exactly as in the case of a voltmeter or ammeter. The movable system does not have springs or any other control, therefore the pointer may rest at any part of the scale when the instrument is not being used.

Variations in the voltage or frequency of the supply do not affect the accuracy appreciably, unless they amount to more than 15 per cent from the normal, and even much greater variations would not cause large enough errors to be of importance in most work. Two forms of this instrument are made. One is for operation on 60-cycle circuits and the other on 500-cycle circuits.

This direct-reading microfaradmeter is supplied with scales reading from .05 microfarad with 100 scale divisions, up to 10 microfarads with 100 scale divisions, for 130-volt circuits with 60-cycle frequencies. Other types of these meters are made for 500-cycle circuits of 100 to 130 volts potential.



Measure Your Condenser Capacities with This Direct-Reading Microfaradmeter—Don't Spend Hours Calculating It, Which Is Only Approximate, Anyway.

THE HAM'S COMPLAINT.

There is a certain class of radio amateurs, fortunate enough to own high power stations, who seem to take great delight in knocking, threatening and brow-beating "ham" operators. For the benefit of the uninitiated we will say that the "hams" are that odd group of air-hogs who operate those confounded little spark coils. According to the aforesaid amateurs, the "ham" is an unnecessary nuisance, and has positively no right to occupy any portion of the ether with his feebly propagated energy. The "ham's" side of the question has not been made public as yet. The spark coil ham was the first exponent of amateur wireless, not the 1 K. W. know-it-all. The deep roar of a power station is far more obnoxious to the fellow who is trying to copy some distant commercial station than the faint squawk of a one-inch coil. There are two reasons why all amateurs cannot have transformers. One is the lack of commercial current; the other, the size of the pocketbook. The fellows who think they are the whole cheese in a certain relay league suggest that the smaller stations keep quiet for a specified period every night. They do not offer in turn to shut up themselves once in a while, and give the spark coil a chance. One of these "bosses" gives portions of his *log* where he has written something as follows. "BVD BVD BVD BVD BVD BVD BVD de de de de XX XX XX XX XX XX XX ? ? ? ? ? sore neck gukrslm slt eggs for breakfast krrr krrrrr awk sssss."

Even this is better than to hear a 1 K. W. eight miles away call a station in New York State for five full minutes, only to ask him *—what time it was!* Now, some agreement must be obtained or the "hams" will rebel. They will all bring their spark coils and batteries to a centrally located point, hook them all together and then proceed to sit on the key for six months!

M. C. MATHISON.

Glen Ellyn, Ill.

AUDION POEM CONTEST

THE poems which we publish on this page are a continuation of the Audion Poem Awards from our August issue. Dr. de Forest personally selected the poems which we already publisht as well as the poems which we publish herewith; they were considered the best ones from the 460 *submitted to the Editor.*

In closing this contest we wish to thank our poet readers for their whole-hearted and earnest co-operation in connection with this contest. It has shown us that our readers are not only interested in scientific matters but can become first class poets as well. It speaks well for their versatility.—EDITOR.

5TH HONORABLE MENTION.
THE FRAIL SURVIVE THE STRONG!

Man-blown bubble of glass and wire!
  Thy thread-fine filament
Still glowing with the God-like fire!
  What has thy coming meant?

Whither on the crest of angry wave
  Thy silent way pursue?
From what far shore dared ye to brave
  The leagues of ocean thru?

Have you once felt the glowing juice
  Thy filament enfold?
Did grid and plate the electrons loose
  To sing their message bold?

Has worldly gossip filled thy mouth
  Far on the lonely sea?
Or ghostly ship, to North or South,
  In passing, spoke thru thee?

Have you, Triode, thrilled at the touch
  Of one, a master's hand,
Who worked and nursed you overmuch,
  To hear the distant land?

Have you the vigil kept with him
  Thru dark and awful night,
While waves roll high and stars grow dim?
  Have you been thru the fight?

Most fragile and most delicate
  Of all things on that trip,
By what untold caprice of fate
  Escaped the sinking ship?

O! Did nerveless hands out-thrust it
  With purpose to confound?
Or did they perhaps entrust it
  With a message never found?

Man-blown bubble of glass and wire!
  Thy thread-like filament
Still glowing with the God-like fire!
  What has thy coming meant?

No answer comes but this I know
  From living over-long:
The frailest tube that man may blow
  Oft times survives the strong!

Composed by
WALTER ELMO CHORPENNING.

Articles to Appear In September Issue of "Radio News"

"Wired Wireless" in the U. S.
By J. W. Kean
Radio Frequency Amplification
By A. S. Blatterman
A Trans-Oceanic Receiver
By Frederick J. Rumford
"Wired Wireless" in Germany
By Dr. Alfred Gradenwitz
Radio Telephony Simplified
By H. L. Beedenbender
The Arc or C. W. Transmitter
By J. Donald Haig
Ideas—Sixth Spasm
By Thos. W. Benson
"One of the Gang"
By Marianne C. Brown
Construction of a Loud Speaker
By H. Winfield Secor

6TH HONORABLE MENTION.
TO AN AUDION.

Little audion, washed ashore
  By the billows of the deep,
Where you once kept watch all o'er,
  Guarding thousands in their sleep;
Thru long watches you, just you,
  A guardian angel's beacon light,
Assured the passengers and crew
  Their folks were safe, that all was right.

In the days of buccaneers,
  Pirates, and the Spanish main,
Brave men's hearts were filled with fears
  'Till their ships reached port again.
But now, thru you, we know each hour
  What transpires on land and sea,
From a distant aerial tower,
  Sending word to you and me.

You tell of fortunes lost and won,
  Of prices on the stock exchange,
A mother who has lost her son;
  Your work is varied, weird and strange.
You ofttimes play the villain's rôle,
  Telling when a soul departs;
"The expedition's reached its goal,"
  Bringing joy—breaking hearts.

How came you here, come—speak to me;
  Why so silent, cold and pale,
You always spoke while on the sea,
  Think you of a mighty gale,
A foundered ship and blackened skies
  And lightnings like a mighty hell,
Which heeded not the terror cries
  As a doomed ship creaked and rose and fell?

Trembling, dainty, little globe,
  Let your terror now subside,
I'll send you to a safe abode,
  A recompense for all you've cried.
No more I'll question you, I'll swear,
  Of suffering and pain you've seen,
And you will have a home up there,
  With playmates drest in red and green.

(*Continued on page* 574)

How to Become a Professional Radio Man

Part I

By PIERRE H. BOUCHERON

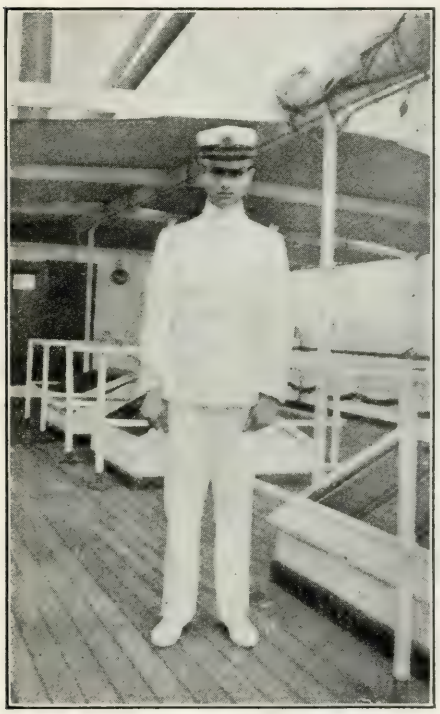
FOREWORD.

Many letters are received by the editors of this and other magazines giving space to radio matters from young men asking the whys and wherefores of radio operating as a profession. That is to say queries of this nature: "How Shall I Go About It In Order To Become A Radio Man?" "What Books Shall I Buy?" "What School Shall I Attend?" "What Instruments Shall I Buy?" "How Much Money Does It Cost?" "What Are The Salaries And What Is The Status Of A Radio Man On Board A Ship?" "How Can One Secure A First Grade Commercial Radio License?" "Where Shall I Apply?" "What Are The Chances For Promotion?" "Can An Operator Learn Navigation And Eventually Become A Merchant Marine Navigating Officer?", Etc., Etc.

From this, it would seem that an article written by one who has experienced many of the stages incidental with this profession, in other words, one who has been "thru the mill" would prove timely indeed to the many young men who are at the present day casting long and copious glances in the direction of large seagoing vessels "equipt with the latest system of radio telegraphy".

The writer, in this case, has personally been thru many of the ups and downs, thrills and glooms, connected with this fascinating game. He began as a deep-dyed-in-the-wool "amateur." One day, armed with a letter of introduction to THE CAPTAIN (a mighty being was he, you may bet) and a ninety-eight cent papier-maché suitcase containing a nice new uniform with sparks and everything, plus a rather colossal quantity of nerve,—for he did not even know how to start a motor-generator set (no operating licenses were needed in those days)—he boarded a miserable tramp steamer loaded above her Queen's mark with bridge iron, which to him looked like a Mauretania, *and thereupon embarked upon a sea of enlightenment and adventures lasting the best part of six years. Two years later he secured an assignment to his first passenger ship, and four years afterwards quit the sea for good—his education in the great university of experience being that much ahead of many more conservative landlubbers.*

Should his attempt to throw a little light and encouragement on the subject interest some who are about to make the step to the point where they may wish to ask brief questions, he shall be glad to answer, providing a self-addrest and stampt envelope accompanies his letter.



Snap-Shot of the Author Taken Some Years Ago While He Was Attached to the S. S. Mexico as Senior Operator.

Inside Information Concerning the Ups and Downs of One of the Most Fascinating Vocations of Modern Times

THE PROSPECTS.

NO, I am not going to start out by telling you that "A lot has been written in various magazines about radio operating, but very few if any have attempted to—etc., etc." It is going to be a straight-from-the-shoulder talk concerning those who are eligible to become professional radio operators, what is to be expected when one starts out, when these facts are establisht, how to go about it in order to become one, and finally, just exactly *how long* one should remain as such.

For the young man in his teens or in his early twenties who contemplates securing a license in order to become a *seagoing radio man,* the proposition as to whether or not he shall do so is indeed a vital and most important one and may be said to depend upon three basic facts. Is the young man just out of school and about to cast his lot into the great commercial maelstrom—or has he gone thru that period and is he now engaged in some sort of occupation which,—owing to its constant grinding and monotonous nature, is beginning to pall on him—to the extent that he is now wondering perhaps whether or not he is not a square peg in a round hole. Or, on the other hand, is he now engaged as an apprentice in some sort of a profession or trade and has decided that the pace is too strong for him and that the proverbial easy (?) life of a radio operator would be one of *least resistance?*

The first two cases are the only ones we will consider. The third is probably that of a quitter. We are not concerned with him, for he is not wanted; seagoing radio being indeed a *man's* game. Therefore, let our prospects weigh well their present status and future chances in their employment of today. To be sure, being hemmed in by four walls all day does not appeal to everyone. If they cannot see any future advancement, or if at best it is a hit-or-miss affair, or if they feel they must give vent to an inborn feeling of *wanderlust,* professional radio operating offers a possible solution. There are several bona fide, tried and proven reasons for this.

First, any young man from 18 to 25 years of age, possessed of a common school education and average intelligence may learn radio within a comparatively short time. By this is meant a matter of months, not weeks as some would have us believe.

Second, owing to the fact that an operator has the opportunity of traveling to many foreign parts of the world, he will, if he keeps his eyes open and his camera and note-book within easy reach, learn many things having to do with the broadening of his mind, wisdom and experience.

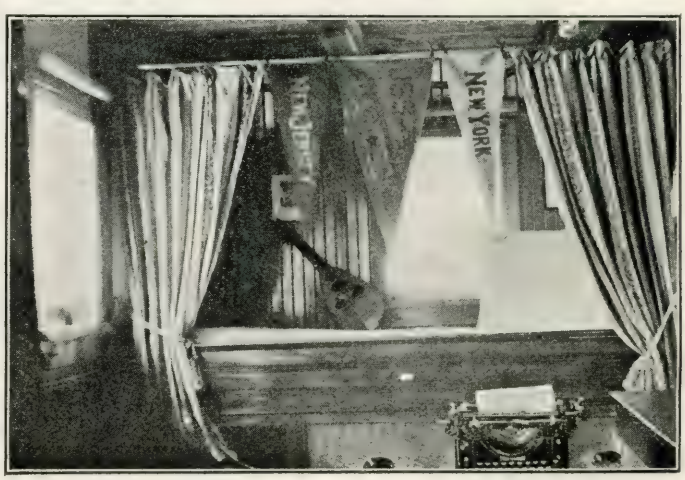
Third, by making profitable use of the great amount of spare time at his disposal between ports of call, he may study subjects allied with his chosen work and thereby prepare himself. Remember the words of Lincoln, "I will study and get ready and maybe my chance will come". It is needless to say that these should be uppermost in a young radio man's mind.

Fourth, one's *wanderlust* may be given full sway, for tell me of the man with real red blood running thru his veins who is not *blest* with a certain amount of it. Romance, adventure, excitement and danger beckons to one at every new port visited. The open sea, the never-ending sky line, the approaching storm—one is ever wondering what is going to happen next!

Five, radio telegraphy, like land telegraphy, has its Carnegies, Edisons, Hills and others who started their careers as telegraphers and became famous. Many high officials and well-known engineers of the foremost radio companies began as *seagoing* operators.

NECESSARY PREPARATION.

There is no great secret about learning radio. Particularly is this true of the seagoing operator. As previously mentioned the average young man possest of an ordi-



Sleeping Berth in the Radio "Shack" of a Typical One-Man Freight Ship, So-Called Because There Is Only One Operator and the Complete Radio Equipment Is Installed in the Same Room. Comfort Seems To Be the Keynote in These Well Furnished Quarters.

nary education and a keen interest will take to radio like a fish does to water, literally speaking. If he intends to see the game thru, however, and wishes to eventually become a radio engineer, that is another matter. For the latter, a high school education or some technical college work will prove of great advantage when he enters the realm of radio mathematics. Still, even this is not absolutely necessary. There are today many foremost radio engineers who have done much for the development of the art as well, of course, as many others masquerading under the title of R. E. whose mathematical knowledge was practically nil at the beginning of their careers. Some of these men, by burning the midnight oil on long sea trips and *by keeping a close watch on opportunities* eventually won minor positions on shore and, the game being in its infancy, soon won recognition in a comparatively few years. Even today, however, there is plenty of room for development and advancement and many radio problems remain still to be solved.

It may be said, incidently, that there are certain individuals who find it comparatively easy to break into professional radio operating. These gentlemen are land line telegraph operators familiar with either the Morse or Continental Codes; the radio amateurs or experimenters who have had several years experience with their home instruments, and finally but not least, the ex-Army or Navy men who had the good fortune to be taught the rudiments of radio communication in either the Signal Corps or some of the great naval radio training stations so often mentioned in the newspapers.

I quote below an excellent paragraph taken from a typical letter recently sent in by a young man who has given some attention and thought to the matter:

> "One of the best and most used means to enter this field is to get a commercial license and enter the Merchant Marine. It also pays exceedingly well and there is abundant opportunity to learn the art from the practical side. The most practical way to pass this examination if one cannot go off to a school is to procure an omnigraph and a few good text books and study by one's self, especially if he happens to be an amateur. However, in doing this several great difficulties present themselves."

This young man has sensed the right idea. There are indeed several difficulties which present themselves to one who is contemplating this study when not properly counseled. These difficulties and the way to overcome them will be given full attention in Part III of this article. That is to say, the proper procedure in learning to receive, to send, the theory of radio, and finally, the practical operating conditions.

Unlike most articles of this kind it is the mission of this one to first tell you about the external consideration connected with radio, telling you just what to expect and not to expect, its joys and sorrows, then when all these have been presented before you, if you still believe that the game will appeal to you, you will be in a more receptive frame of mind to tackle the serious business of the less interesting details of technical preparation. As a matter of fact some of the remarks mentioned here might well be taken to heart by full-fledged seagoing radio operators who still have a lot to learn concerning the business of getting along and making a real success of their work.

If You Have a Weak Heart or a Tendency Towards Chronic Seasickness, Keep Away From the Sea, For There Will Be Times When the Pouring of Tons of Water into the Main Deck of a Ship Is Very Likely to Prove Unpleasant and Cause a Sudden Disastrous Feeling in the Pit of Your Stomach. (Actual Photograph Taken at Sea During a Severe Storm.)

THE AMENITIES ON BOARD SHIP OR "HOW TO GET ALONG."

Many otherwise bright young men go to sea as operators with the idea that they are the *finisht* product of a popular and desirable profession. Some do not complete their first voyage before the realization comes to them that it is not so very amusing after all; and after a year or so of service resign with the firm conviction that the game is not worth while and that the experience has been so much wasted time.

Let us look into this business of going to sea a little deeper than seems to have previously been done. How many operators have started on their first voyage with even the most primary knowledge of what constitutes ship etiquette and discipline?

First there is the matter of discipline which often differs among ships of various companies and nationalities. Then there is the difference in the authority of various ship's officers. On some vessels the Purser seems to have considerable prestige; on others the Chief Steward is quite "some pumpkins," still others the Chief Mate, and so it happens that friction is often caused between these officers and operators due to varying and conflicting conceptions of what is right and wrong. Since operators are frequently transferred from one vessel to another, it would be well to remember the great need of politeness and tact toward officers with a view of adapting themselves to the conditions existing on that particular ship.

The Crew Went on Strike at a Foreign Port So the Ship's Officers, Consisting of Chief Officer, Doctor, Purser, Two Engineers and the Radio Man "Turn-To" in Order to Coal Ship. Note Author at Extreme Right.

For no apparent reasons, new operators often meet with coldness, even snubbing at the hands of some of the ship's crew. A volume might well be written as to the cause for this initial unfriendliness.

Suffice it to say that this is suggestive enough in itself and the reason not hard to find if one cares to inquire into the record of *former operators of that particular ship.* For instance, there is the case of a certain operator who, after his ship had left port bound on a three months' voyage to South America, went up to the British skipper and between flippant puffs of his cigarette coolly told him that if he had known beforehand he was being sent on *such a small vessel* he would not have sailed; he had thought it was one of the new and larger vessels of that particular line. The captain in a tone full of contempt at such stupendous arrogance answered that he could very well have done without him, and the result was that this operator, instead of being invited to the various social functions that prevail on this class of ships, was practically ostracized for the remainder of the voyage by most of the officers and passengers—the captain saw to that.

Another operator of 18 summers or less, upon being civilly requested by the Chief Officer to "stop sending" for a few minutes, while a sailor went aloft to fasten a guy-stay, thought he would demonstrate his independence from the rest of the ship's personnel by sending back a note to the officer saying, "Sorry *old man* can't stop now—piled up with biz".

As a matter of fact this cargo vessel was at the time many hundred miles from the nearest coast station with remote possibilities of the wireless man being "piled up" with traffic. Still another operator contested the right of the captain asking for the name of a passing ship, and so they go.

These may be extreme cases of ill-judgment and lack of tact on the part of opera-

(*Continued on page* 578)

WITH the AMATEURS

Our Amateur Laboratory Contest is open to all readers, whether subscribers or not. The photos are judged for best arrangement and efficiency of the apparatus. To increase the interest of this department we make it a rule not to publish photos of apparatus unaccompanied by that of the owner. Dark photos preferred to light-toned ones. We pay $5.00 each month for the best photo or photos and $2.00 to each "Honorable Mention." Address the Editor, "With the Amateurs" Dept.

"Amateur Electrical Laboratory" Contest

This Month's $5.00 Prize Winner—Stewart S. Perry

I AM sending three "shots" of my Electrical "Lab.", which is the result of three years' work. Most of the apparatus I have built myself, with the help of plans and suggestions in the ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER, to which I attribute much of my success in building apparatus.

The first photo shows the chemical end of the "Lab." Most of the chemicals are for use in electrical processes, as for example, distilled water and sulfuric acid for storage batteries, and nickel nitrate for nickel plating. I have, besides, quite a few solutions of acids, bases, and salts, and a complete developing and printing outfit for photographic work.

Another picture shows my wireless set, most of which I made myself. I am using an original hook-up which permits me to use either a crystal detector or audion bulb, and to shift readily from either of my small loose couplers to the large coils for undampt waves. I have two aerials, one a four-strand antenna about forty feet long, and the other a loop aerial. The large coils for undampt waves can be seen at the top of the picture. With a 42-plate condenser across the secondary, these coils will tune up to twenty thousand meters. Using them with an Audiotron vacuum tube detector, I have heard Lyons, France (YN). I use a "break-in" key which allows me to listen in even while sending, as long as the key is not actually prest so as to complete the sending circuit.

Another photo shows some of my miscellaneous electrical gear. At the top of the picture is an Audion control box. Directly below it is a step-down transformer. To the left (in front of the ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER) is my AC rectifier, which I use to charge storage batteries. The Tesla coil I use for experimenting.

There are a number of electrical apparatus which I use in some of my experiments and investigations which are not shown in the photograph here publisht. This includes electromagnets, condensers and rheostats, galvanometers, etc. I have carried on experiments with X-rays, radio and also experimented with high frequency currents developed from the Tesla coil shown in the second photograph. I have telephone instruments also which are distributed thru the house, as well as telegraph sounders, keys, etc. Most of my instruments and apparatus, particularly my radio instruments, are mounted up in neat hard wood cabinets.

I also have two three-cell storage batteries, several step-up and step-down transformers, several small motors, wave meter coils, telephones, etc. I am always after new ideas and would be glad to exchange "dope" with any amateur in the good old U. S. A. or elsewhere.—Stewart S. Perry, 38 Pleasant St., Winthrop, Mass.

Honorable Mention—Bernard P. Mulcahy, $2.00 Prize

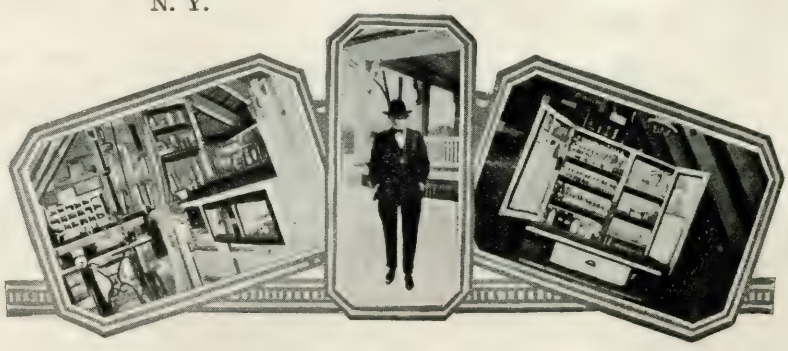
HEREWITH are represented a few photographs of my laboratory and workshop, constructed in an attic. Ingenuity was necessary in the building of the same, on account of the shape of the attic. While the photographs show simply the chemical department, I have, like most Amateurs, a large quantity of electrical apparatus, stowed away. Being greatly interested in Electro-chemistry, I work mostly along these lines.

It will be seen by the accompanying photographs, my workshop has in addition to the regular tools found everywhere, a lathe made from an old sewing machine. This lathe has a saw attachment whereby I can do small scroll saw work. All tools have to be arranged in as orderly a manner as possible, and yet be out of the way, lack of space not permitting my having extensive tool chests.

My chemistry outfit consists of a well equipt set of chemicals, almost 200 in number. In addition to the chemicals, the apparatus usually found in chemical laboratories serves its purpose. By being careful and keeping my breakage list down, I am able to keep this well supplied with all kinds of paraphernalia needed in my work.

A delicate balance which is essential for good work is also contained in the outfit. At present, my electrical laboratory is not so elaborately equipt, except for the purpose of Electro-chemistry, but I intend to broaden out later.

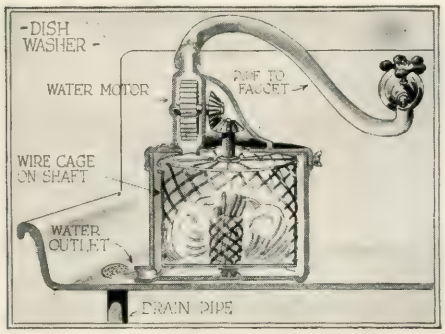
Wishing you a successful future for your exceptional publication.—Bernard P. Mulcahy, 305 Pulteney St., Geneva, N. Y.



What To Invent

By JAY G. HOBSON

OF all the important improvements needed around the home to lighten a mother's or wife's work and save their patience for cheerfully serving the men folk's whims, nothing is more in evidence than a *burnless cloth* for ironing boards.



What the American Housewife Needs by All Means Is a Cheap and Efficient Dish-Washing Machine. One Driven by a Water Motor From the Spigot Is Here Suggested.

An old sheet or piece of muslin is generally used which soon becomes scorched, dirty and torn, making linen and fine wearing apparel discolored and smell burnt when ironed. Silk goods are badly roughened on such and in addition to considerable waste in ironing board cloth there is no little loss in clothes ironed on the same. This unsatisfactory condition suggests a new kind of cloth for the purpose. One that I believe would prove acceptable to the great army of American housewives could be constructed in the cotton mills where muslin is woven. Asbestos fiber closely woven between and with the cotton fabric into finisht cloth should serve the need amply.

In other words a cloth woven of both cotton and asbestos fiber, arranging the asbestos so it overlaps the surface of the cloth. Then when woven run this non-burn material thru warm steel rollers to polish and press the surface down smoothly, which will prevent roughing silks and the like when ironed.

There is great need for a cloth of this kind in every home. It could be used for many purposes besides ironing boards, such as dining table covers, match pockets for men's clothes, lamp shades, electric insulation and numerous places where a burnless cloth of light, flexible texture is desirable. A large profitable industry could be quickly built from the sale of this invention, and it would be as substantial as the need is practical.

LAUNDRY MARKER.

I have a reputation for being a normal person with a love for fairness to all and malice to none, but I must confess that my balance of mind has recently been sorely tried with the confounded *laundry markers* now in use for men's sox. No doubt many of my readers fully sympathize in this predicament but to be more explicit I had better tell you all about it so you may help us disgruntled fellows invent something to eradicate this great annoyance.

Only yesterday I skinned a perfectly good leg on these rough metal markers while pulling on my sox in a hurry. The inventor who reduced this tormentor to a reality, certainly had a grievance against laundries in general, and chose this way to get revenge. History repeats itself again—the innocent must suffer for the mistakes of the guilty. Why any laundry uses this device is beyond my comprehensive powers.

It is a flat, sharp edged, shark toothed piece of non-rustable metal clampt over the top rim of the sock with a pair of pliers, there to stay until the owner gets so disgusted with them he either cuts that part of the sock off; or throws them away with a sigh of relief. This device is the most impractical invention I have seen and yet, many laundries keep right on using them as if they were a boon to mankind instead of a bore. A different marker is sorely needed for men's sox. One that will no tear them nor the flesh upon which they are worn must be invented to take the place of the inefficient kind now in use. An arrangement like the illustration would serve the purpose splendidly and should easily replace the present design, proving very profitable commercially.

This improvement would be so constructed that it can be quickly secured to the sox very much as the eye is put into the shoe. Being round, smooth and made of copper it is non-rustable, doesn't tear nor feel weighty in use.

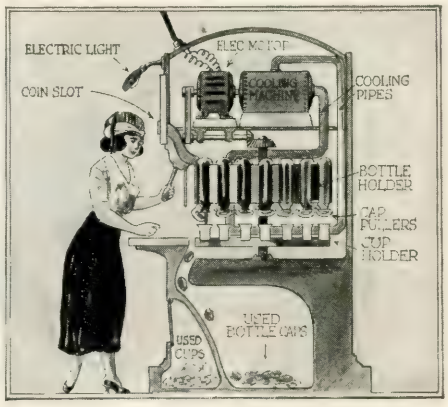
SOFT DRINK DISPENSER.

Millions of bottles of Coca Cola, Ginger Ale, Grape Juice and similar soft drinks are sold over fountains paying fancy rents for good business locations. Many bulk dispensers for these beverages have been introduced, but so far a practical dispenser for bottled drinks to be installed on busy street corners, in stations and public places has failed to appear. In my opinion here is the "germ" of a mighty valuable idea.

To perfect such a device to keep the product cool in Summer without ice, to remove the cap from the bottles, pour the drink into paper cups and issue it to the customer promptly, means a whole lot of hard study and work but it is not impossible for many reasons. To begin with the cooling problem is already solved in a new automatic electric cooling system now being nationally introduced by a large Chicago corporation for installation on refrigerators to entirely replace ice.

One of these could be used for cooling the drinks in the dispenser. The bottles could be stood on end with caps resting in individual cork pullers operated by the motor that runs the cooling machine. Paper cups are arranged directly beneath the bottle openings to catch the liquid as sold. The operation of this dispenser can be so timed that paper cups containing the drinks will not be pusht out to the customer until contents of bottle has had enough time to run out into the cup, and this entire operation should happen in less time than is now required to receive a drink at the fountain.

There Is Not a Single Satisfactory "Laundry Marker" For Hosiery on the Market—Why Not Invent a Good One and Make a Small Fortune?



Why Doesn't Some Genius Give Us Public Soda Fountains Which Will Dispense Bottles of Soft Drinks After a Coin Has Been Deposited?

To operate such a dispenser the customer places the coin required in the slot, pulls a small lever that swings a full bottle into position, waits a second, and then a paper cup containing the soft drink comes out thru serving opening within easy reach. Paper cups once used are thrown into receptacle at bottom of dispenser as illustrated.

AUTOMATIC HOME DISHWASHER.

To my knowledge there have been several unsuccessful inventions for washing the dishes of the average family. All of them have failed because they either were too expensive to own or operate, broke more dishes than they cleaned—or, worse still, never cleaned them at all.

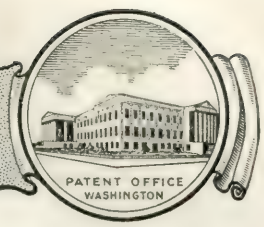
There are several important items that enter into the construction of a successful dish washer. The retail cost must be within reach of the average family, the device must be as simple as possible, it must not break dishes in operation, water must be employed economically, it must not require the hands to be placed in the water, and above all it must *thoroly cleanse* the dishes and also dry them if possible.

One in the form of a round case, with another case made of wire to revolve inside the outer case, a small water motor secured on top to supply the power necessary and the outlet of the motor furnishes the hot water for cleaning the dishes as it rotates them. This constant agitation of the water and the revolution of the dishes in the water should thoroly clean them. When clean they could reman in the washer until dry.

A fortune of first magnitude will reward the successful efforts of the inventor who perfects a device for this purpose, but the greatest satisfaction will come from knowing the good accomplisht for the millions of women now washing their dishes by hand.

Copyright 1920 by J. G. Hobson.

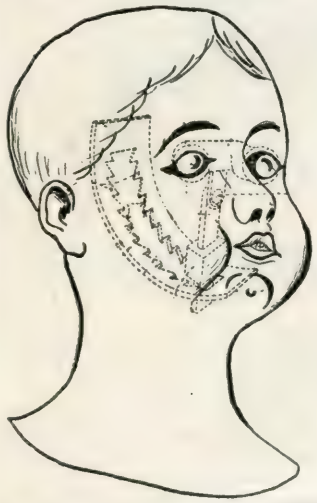
LATEST PATENTS



Doll.

(No. 1,343,422, issued to Robert A. Thomson and Gordon Alvis.)

An ingenious idea indeed is this one whereby in a doll the eyes will close gradually when the doll is placed in a recumbent position, resembling very closely the appearance of a living child gradually closing its eyes as if going to sleep. The doll, of course, must be rocked from side to side in order to cause this effect. On awakening, or when the doll is placed into an upright position, its eyes open practically instantly. The structure consists of a toothed slot in which a pendulum

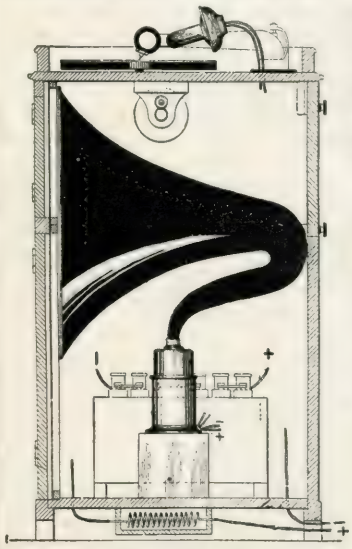


weight moves. This pendulum weight is directly connected to the eyes. When the doll is rocked from side to side the toothing arrangement allows the pendulum weight to slip a tooth in the guide with each rocking motion till finally the eyes of the doll are closed.

Sound Magnifying Phonograph.

(No. 1,329,928, issued to Edwin Stewart Pridham and Peter Lauritz Jensen.)

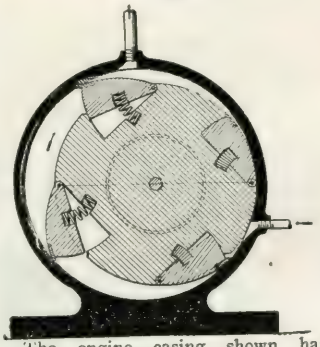
This novel device is a machine for magnifying phonograph records in large halls, auditoriums and out-of-door gatherings. The results are



accomplisht thru the application of a microphone transmitter, together with the ordinary sound box. The sound from the microphone transmitter is then carried thru to a magnetic amplifier thru an induction coil.

Rotary Engine.

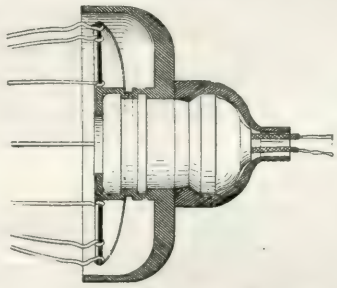
(No. 1,343,115, issued to George E. Current.)



The engine casing shown has two tubes leading into it, one to admit the fluid and another for the exhaust of that fluid. Within this is mounted the rotor, eccentrically, leaving a chamber which is wider at one end than at the other. This rotor has formed in the perifery recesses or pockets, four such pockets being shown in the accompanying diagram. Each of these is mounted pivotably and is of considerable weight, so that it will swing outwardly from the respective pockets by centrifugal force and upon passing the inlet of the liquid will be held in that position by the force of the fluid.

Electric Socket and Lamp Protector.

(No. 1,336,761, issued to Frederick Stolzenwald.)

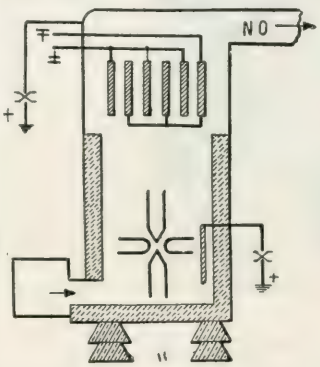


Two soft rubber protectors fit over the socket. When the socket is then pushed together into place and locked, the soft rubber pieces are joined together. Should the socket be dropt no injury to the lamp can be sustained, due to the bell-shaped guard surrounding the lamp and this elastic covering over the socket. In addition, the elastic medium is of exceptional insulating merit

Nitrogen Fixation.

(No. 1,334,590, issued to Jacob E. Bloom.)

Hot surfaces of metal, grounded in the proper manner, so that either only positive or negative discharges

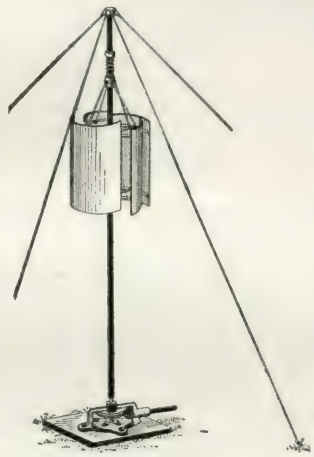


are produced are used, and hot refractory granules or crystals employed as absorbents until the proper oxidation is attained. A single phase A. C. current not exceeding 440 volts is employed and upon this is superimposed a direct current whose voltage is about 1½% of the A. C. voltage. In the tower for the purpose of obtaining nitric acid from gases and having them absorb by water, an electro-positive absorbent is used.

Windmill.

(No. 1,341,045, issued to Charles Fremont Currey.)

This invention relates to windmills in which the vanes are in an upright position so that the rotor turns about an upright axis, the vanes themselves being so constructed as to give maximum power

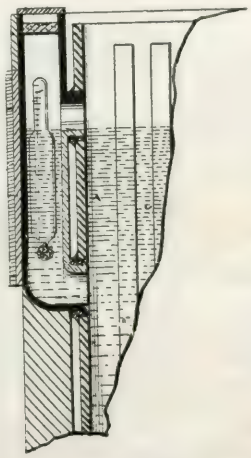


for a given wind velocity. By extending the blades it is possible to provide a rotor with a very large area of effective surface, and yet the fact that they hinge (so that a portion of the vane would turn inwardly while another turns outwardly), a very large effective area is possible without placing the mill in danger of collapsing or striking any guys which hold it in an upright position.

Storage Battery Indicator.

(No. 1,301,516, issued to Franklin G. Smith.)

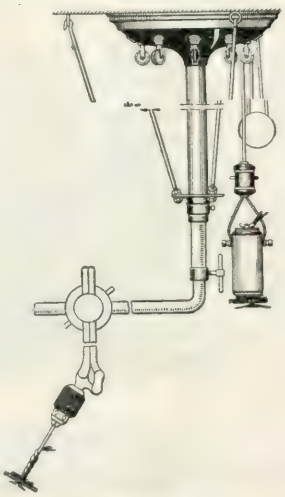
This is a very ingenious application of the hydrometer to the



storage battery wherein the hydrometer is permanently mounted in the face of the storage battery so that it cannot get lost, and at all times renders a visual reading of the battery condition, a matter of a mere second.

Electric Hair Curler.

(No. 1,340,738, issued to Arnaud Pausser.)

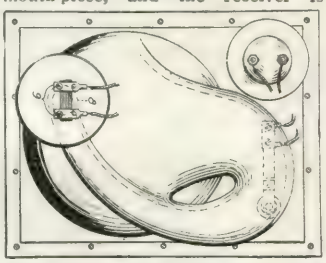


The hair is first twisted upon a rod and held in position by a nut on each end which grips the hair. The hair after having been moistened either with hot or cold water and wrapt with a moistened pad, is inclosed in an asbestos tube provided with electric heating units.

Telephone Set.

(No. 1,339,814, issued to Henry C. Egerton.)

The transmitter is mounted at the front of a metallic cabinet by the mouth-piece, and the receiver is

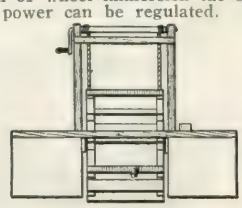


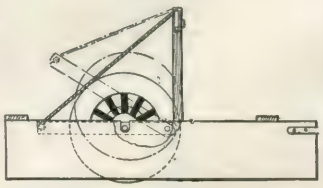
likewise mounted by its horn in the same cabinet. In this way the set, which can readily be placed into the wall of a vessel or a room, and particularly submarine vessels, is not subjected to the excessive vibration generally found in these vessels.

Water-Motor.

(No. 1,339,012, issued to William H. Ammons.)

The floats are so arranged as to create a deflecting pocket so that the moving water will be concentrated upon the wheel. By changing the depth of wheel immersion the speed and power can be regulated.





Scientific Humor

The Difference Between Thine and Mine.—Two mine engineers were discussing deep mine shafts, and one had told in glowing terms about mines in which he had worked.

"Jump into my car and I'll show you a regular mine," said the other.

Arriving at the mine they saw the hoisting engine revolving at a terrifying rate. The engine-man was asleep. Rushing to the sleeping man, they cried:

"Wake up man! You'll pull the cage thru the roof!"

"What day is this?" the engine-man asked sleepily.

"It's Tuesday, but stop the engine, quick!"

"Aw g'wan," he replied, disgustedly, settling himself back in his chair. "She won't be up till Friday."—*J. H. Schalek.*

Probably on the Pension List.—"Are there no more babies in this town?"

"Why do you ask such a question?"

"Well I noticed a card in a repair shop window: *"Baby carriages Retired."*—*Wallace R. Harris.*

So That's Why It Smells So!—BEN ZEEN: "I know a good joke about crude oil."

CARRY SEEN: "Spring it."

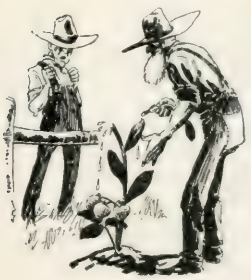
BEN ZEEN: "It's not refined."—*J. H. Schalek.*

Besides It Gets Less!—TEACHER: "What kind of a change is there from water to ice, John?"

HOPEFUL STUDENT: "Change of price, Sir."—*Harold L. Schrock.*

Personal Magnatism.—MOLLIE: "Jane certainly attracts all the young men around here."

GERTIE: "Sure, her father is a big steel magnate."—*Martin F. Keane.*



How About Peaches and?—1ST FARMER: "I have made a plant that produces strawberries and cream."

2ND FARMER: "How?"

1ST FARMER: "By grafting a strawberry plant on a milk-weed."—*Floyd G. Kirkham.*

Some Clock.—"Do you mean to tell me that clock will run eight days without winding?"

"Yes."

"Well, then how long will it run if you wind it?"—*Martin F. Keane.*

So That's Why We "Boil."—"What is steam?"

"Water in a high state of perspiration."—*A. G. Kalmbach.*

FIRST PRIZE $3.00

Filming the Pup.—"Father! Father! The bull-pup is chewing up the roll of ilms I got for ..y camera and won't let go!"

"Go and get some of that toothpaste that removes the film from the teeth!"—*J. H. Schalek.*

A Tidy Answer.—"Why do they have knots on the ocean instead of miles?"

"If there were no knots there wouldn't be any tide."—*Everett Brooks.*

Not at Present Prices.—INQUISITIVE PUPIL: "Will electricity cure a person of anything?"

TEACHER: "It will if enough of it is taken."—*No Name.*

A Slip Twixt Cup and Lip.—A small boy rusht into a drug store and excitedly called for some liniment and cement. When askt why he desired them both at once he said nervously, "Pa hit Ma with a cup."—*W. R. Windham.*

ALL jokes accepted and publisht here are paid for at the rate of one dollar each, besides the first prize of three dollars for the best joke submitted each month. In the event that two people send in the same joke so as to "tie" for the prize, then the sum of three dollars in cash will be paid to each one.

Perfectly Logical.—PROFESSOR: "Young man, what is "Mineral Wool?"

FRESHMAN: "The shearings from a hydraulic ram, sir."—*W. Buck.*

Next They'll Cross Ham and Eggs.—1ST FARMER (With big idea): "Do you know what I am going to do?"

2ND FARMER: "No, what?"

1ST FARMER: "I am going to graft beans, red pepper and tomatoes together and raise ready made Chili Con Carne."—*Theodore Streeter.*

"Applied" Astronomy.—SHE: "There goes a shooting star."

HE: "You know that when a girl says she sees a shooting star, it means she wants to be kist."

SHE: "There goes a constellation."—*Sterling R. Decker.*

"Pointed" Wireless.—ASKIT: "What do you think of this scheme of telegraphing without wires?"

TELLIT: "That's nothing new. My wife has been kicking my shins under the table for the last twenty years."—*J. H. Schalek.*

Solid Ivory.—PROF.: "What is density?"

STUDENT: "I can't define it but *I* can give a good illustration."

PROF.: "The illustration is good, sit down!"—*Sterling R. Decker.*

Holy Smoke!—JOHNNY: "Mother, how old is that lamp?"

MOTHER: "About three years."

JOHNNY: "Turn it down then, it's too young to smoke."—*Carl Brecht, Jr.*

Alas—'Tis True.—STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER: "I've caught a snapshot of the fleeing gambler!"

CITY EDITOR: "Good! Now take a time exposure of the police in pursuit."—*No Name.*

Cheap, If It Keeps Her Beautiful.—"Since when have you become interested in chemistry?"

"Nonsense, that's my wife's toilet table."—*Daniel Blair.*

She'd Fetch a Good Price Today.—SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER: "Now who can tell me what happened to Lot's wife when she looked back at Sodom?"

SMALL BOY WITH LARGE SPECTACLES: "Please, teacher, she was transmuted into chloride of sodium."—*C. C. Sabin.*

Try This on Your Girl.—The chemist has a scene with his wife who finally breaks into tears.

"Your tears don't have any effect on me. —for what are they? A mighty small percentage of phosphorous salts and a trace of chloride of sodium—all the rest is water."—*C. C. Sabin.*

A Smashing Hit.—A lady who had her hand in a sling was explaining to a friend that the hurt was due to reckless driving.

"Of your auto?" asked the friend.

"No," said the sufferer, "Of a Nail."—*Ralph McRobert.*

This One Hails From London.—SIGN IN LONDON SHOP: Experienced Electrician for large Butcher's store used to mincing machinery and hooking up the lights.—*Geo. Heasman.*

Mr. Logwood Please Note!—INQUISITIVE LAYMAN—"Is it true, they are using trees now for receiving radio messages?"

RADIO BUG—"Yes, De Forest wireless is getting to be very popular!"—*Paul Brinotte.*

THE ORACLE

The "Oracle" is for the sole benefit of all electrical experimenters. Questions will be answered here for the benefit of all, but only matter of sufficient interest will be publisht. Rules under which questions will be answered:

1. Only three questions can be submitted to be answered.
2. Only one side of sheet to be written on; matter must be typewritten or else written in ink, no penciled matter considered.
3. Sketches, diagrams, etc., must be on separate sheets. Questions addrest to this department cannot be answered by mail free of charge.
4. If a quick answer is desired by mail, a nominal charge of **25 cents** is made for each question. If the questions entail considerable research work or intricate calculations a special rate will be charged. Correspondents will be informed as to the fee before such questions are answered.

LAMP COLORING FORMULA.

(1055) Prince Alhinini, New York City, N. Y., asks for:

Q. 1. A good coloring formula for lamp bulbs.

A. 1. Two of the best substances which suggest themselves as excellent vehicles of color and which are at the same time soluble in water are water-glass, its chemical name being potassium and sodium silicate; and gelatine. Into solutions of these substances in water are added some analin water soluble colors.

The thickness of this solution must be tried and ascertained by experiment. The globes prior to dipping, should be made as free of dirt, grease, etc., as possible. In using gelatine, it is not advisable to make it very thick, so that no appreciable layer will form, it being best that some non-drying material, such as glycerine be added, so as to prevent cracking.

WHY ISN'T THE EARTH UNBALANCED?

(1056) William H., Newark, N. J., writes:

Q. 1. Would like to ask you why the earth apparently continues to rotate without any appreciable variation when one half is possibly heavier than the other.

When large cities like New York are built heavy material is taken from one part of the earth's surface and added to the other part, this would make one part heavier.

Coal is taken from the earth and burned, don't this make the part of the earth lighter where the coal is taken? The burning of the coal still lightens the surface.

Why is it that this changing of weight does not effect the cycles of rotation?

Does the center of gravity change when great quantities of matter are transferred?

The above has got me thinking and thought I would like to hear what had occurred to others along the line.

A. 1. In our opinion, the amount of coal that is taken from different places of the earth and burnt in cities like New York, where the material is massed in one spot, is really so insignificant compared to the total mass of the earth that it would cut no more figure than the smallest fly speck would on the largest orange. That would be about the proportion.

While there is a difference in weight, this amount is so small that it would never be able to make any tangible difference. As a matter of fact, very much greater differences occur every day of the year due to rain or snow. These amount to tremendous proportions as compared to the weights of buildings in large cities. Still these differences are so small as compared to the total weight of the earth that they really amount to nothing at all in the long run.

DATA ON 2 K. W. RADIO TRANSFORMER.

(1057) M. E. Hulderman, Akron, Ohio, writes the Oracle:

Q. 1. Please give data for building a 2 K. W. radio transformer for laboratory work.

A. 1. Data on 2 K. W. 18,000-volt radio transformer for use on 110-volt, 60 cycle A. C. circuit:

Laminated Sheet Iron Core: The core should measure 17½ inches long by 8¾ inches wide, outside dimensions, and have a cross-section of 2¼x2¼. Both the longer legs should be well insulated with several layers of oiled linen.

Primary Winding: The primary winding will comprise three layers of 13½ lbs. No. 8 D.C.C. magnet wire. The primary contains 244 turns, and is wound on one of the longer legs.

Secondary Winding: The secondary winding will comprise 21 lbs. of No. 28 D.C.C. magnet wire, wound in 30 pies or coils, each ¼ inch thick, with suitable insulating discs placed between them in assembly. Each coil should contain 920 turns, or a total of 27,600 turns for the whole secondary. The secondary potential can be varied by bringing out taps on the end of the first, second and third layers of the primary. The secondary voltage with all primary turns cut in, is 12,440 volts; with 200 primary turns in the circuit, the secondary potential is 15,180 volts, and with only 100 primary turns in circuit, the secondary voltage equals 30,360.

HEATING OF TWISTED WIRE.

(1058) Armistead Andrews, of Memphis, Tenn., asks:

Q. 1. The reason for the violent heat generated when a piece of wire of large gage is vigorously twisted.

A. 1. The explanation of this phenomenon is due to the compression of the molecules that go to make up this iron wire and likewise the friction that results, causes the heating of the wire.

The wire need not be twisted vigorously to obtain this heat but can be obtained by merely bending the wire back and forth at short intervals.

POWER OF ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE VERSUS STEAM TYPE.

(1059) A. L. Simmonds, S. S. Caribbean, Cristobal, Canal Zone, writes:

The members of our ship are patrons of your magazine. A heated discussion has arisen in regards to an article in your June, 1920, number. This article, appearing under the title of "Electricity Triumphs Over Steam." Please answer these questions:

The General Electric Company, Engineering Department, advises as follows:

Q. 1. How heavy was the electric locomotive?

A. 1. 265 tons, of which 458,000 lbs. was on drivers.

Q. 2. How heavy was each steam locomotive?

A. 2. Passenger locomotive, 421,000 lbs. total weight, including tender; 173,000 lbs. on drivers. Freight locomotive 509,500 lbs. total weight including tender; 234,000 lbs. on drivers.

Q. 3. Was it at all necessary for the electric locomotive to be heavier than the two steam locomotives?

A. 3. An electric locomotive of the same total weight will outpull a steam locomotive because of the larger proportion of its total weight being on drivers.

Q. 4. What would happen were two locomotives of equal weight, but one having more power, to meet in such a contest?

A. 4. If the steam and electric locomotives were of the same total weight, the electric locomotive would outpull the steam for the reason given in question 3. If they have the same weight upon the drivers in each case the electric locomotive would still outpull the steam, as its motors deliver to the drivers a perfectly uniform turning motion, while the reciprocating steam engine with quartering cranks delivers about 88 per cent uniform turning motion to its drivers; hence with equal weight upon the drivers there is about 12 per cent differential in favor of the electric locomotive.

MAKING GUN COTTON.

(1060) D. M. Scott, Oakland, Cal., inquires of the Oracle:

Q. 1. For the formula used in making gun cotton.

A. 1. We give herewith the necessary data for the making of gun cotton.

Take one part by volume nitric acid, two parts sulfuric acid. Pour the nitric acid *very* slowly into the sulfuric acid, stirring constantly. Be sure to do this in the open, as the nitrous acid fumes are very dangerous and deadly. This will be found to heat up rapidly and must now be left in the open air to cool to normal atmospheric temperature.

Some cotton or celluloid is now obtained. After having washed it of its impurities in sodium hydroxide, and then in water until not even the slightest trace of the hydroxide remains, a test being made with litmus paper, it is dried. When thoroly dried, it is put into the sulfuric nitric solution, this being also done in open air. It is allowed to remain in said solution from ten to fifteen minutes, timing by a watch, then removed and placed in a running water bath. It is again washed in running water, until not the slightest trace of acid shows its presence, dried, and is ready for use. This will not explode if struck by a hammer, nor will it ignite, unless it is placed in a confined space or container.

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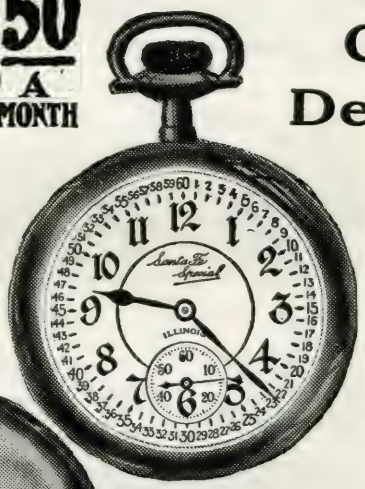

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Electric Wiring	ADVERTISING MAN
Electric Lighting	Window Trimmer
Electric Car Running	Show Card Writer
Heavy Electric Traction	Outdoor Sign Painter
Electrical Draftsman	RAILROADER
Electric Machine Designer	ILLUSTRATOR
Telegraph Expert	DESIGNER
Practical Telephony	BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
MECHANICAL ENGINEER	Private Secretary
Mechanical Draftsman	BOOKKEEPER
Ship Draftsman	Stenographer and Typist
Machine Shop Practice	Cert. Pub. Accountant
Toolmaker	Traffic Management
Gas Engineer	Commercial Law
CIVIL ENGINEER	GOOD ENGLISH
Surveying and Mapping	STATIONARY ENGINEER
MINE FOREM'N OR ENG'R	CIVIL SERVICE
ARCHITECT	Railway Mail Clerk
Architectural Draftsman	Textile Overseer or Supt.
PLUMBING AND HEATING	AGRICULTURE — Spanish
Sheet Metal Worker	Poultry Raising — French
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Home Electrics

By G. L. HOADLEY, M. E.

(*Continued from page* 497)

Return Call Bell Circuits.—By a *return call system* is meant a circuit in which the home push button will ring the distant bell and the distant push button will ring the home bell. With such a system when a station is signaled, the party called can signal back by pressing his push button.

Fig. 17, the single stroke bell if used at the calling station shows the caller that the distant station is ringing because the single stroke bell is operated only by the ringing of the vibrating bell at the distant station.

Master Call System.—An installation suitable for a school building is shown in Fig.

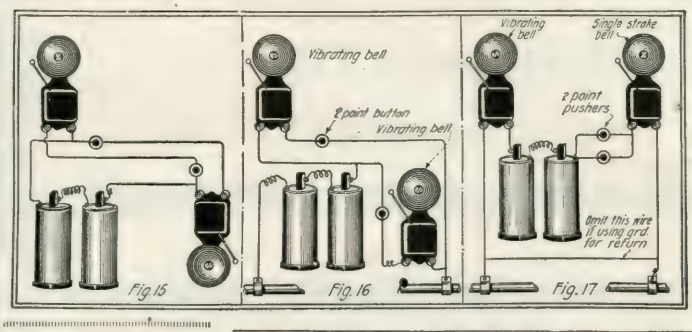
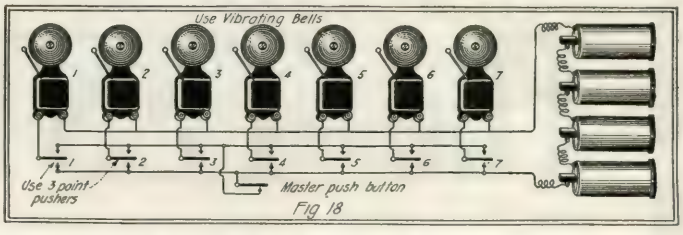


Fig. 18. Below Shows a Very Good "Master Call" Electric Bell System, Suitable for Schools and Other Institutions or Large Houses. Double Contact Push Buttons are Used in Order That All of the Bells May Be Rung in Case of Fire or Drills, Etc., By Depressing the Master Push Button.

Fig. 15. Three-Line "Return Call" Bell System,—One Battery Ringing Either Bell. Fig. 16. Two-Line Grounded Return Call System With Common Battery. Fig. 17. Three-line Return Call System, Common Battery.

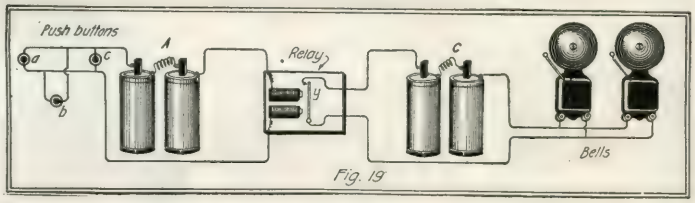


Two Line Return Call.—Fig. 13 shows this type of circuit. Two batteries are required. The double contact push buttons needed have the line wire connected to the strap or spring in the button, the bell wire is connected to the upper contact. One line wire may be eliminated by using the earth for the *return path* as shown in Fig. 14. By using the ordinary push button in either Fig. 13 or Fig. 14 both bells will ring simultaneously.

Three Line Return Call.—Only one battery is needed for this circuit which is illustrated by Fig. 15 and ordinary two-point push buttons are satisfactory. An extra third wire is necessary, however, between the two locations. This third wire can be eliminated by using the ground for the return path of the current as shown in Fig. 16. With a circuit wired as shown in Fig. 18. Here, each school-room bell may be rung individually by its own push button. All bells will ring simultaneously by pressing the master button.

Bell System With Relay.—Fig. 19 illustrates the use of the relay to operate bells at a distance. Installing such a system, place the relay close to the distant bells and the local battery C as shown. Then, adjust the relay to work from line battery A. On pressing any one of the push buttons, a, b, c, current from battery A passes thru the relay at the distant station, making contact at y. This throws into circuit local battery C, which rings the bells, at the distant station. Only a very small current is needed to operate the relay itself and the weak current supplied from the distant battery, A, is amply sufficient.

Illustrating the Use of a Relay for Ringing Bells Over Long, High Resistance Circuits. Only a Small Current Is Required to Work the Relay.



Eclipses--How Caused

By A. M. HARDING, Ph.D.

(*Continued from page* 495)

Since the moon moves its own diameter every hour, it follows that an eclipse of the moon, when central, may continue total for about two hours. The refraction of the atmosphere of the earth deflects the sunlight around the earth into the shadow. Consequently, after the moon has buried itself in the shadow it is usually visible, shining with a reddish or copper colored light.

There is nothing mysterious about an eclipse of the moon. There is nothing between us and the moon at the time of an eclipse. The light has merely been turned out. The computation of a lunar eclipse is not at all complicated. These computations are made in advance and are publisht in the American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac, Washington, D. C.

As the moon moves around the earth it cuts out the sunlight from a certain portion of space. That is, it has a shadow which moves along with it, remaining always on the opposite side of the moon from the sun. The average length of the moon's shadow is 232,150 miles. However, since the moon is not always at the same distance from the earth, this length varies from 228,000 miles to 236,000 miles. The average distance of the moon from the earth is 240,000 miles. Its shadow will, therefore, usually not reach the earth, *altho it may sometimes reach* 18,000 *miles beyond the earth's surface!* When it does reach the earth, those of us who happen to be in the shadow see a *total eclipse of the sun.*

(*Continued on page* 524)

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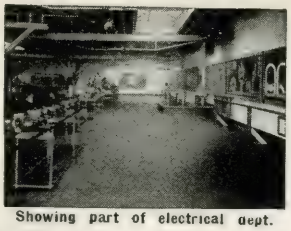

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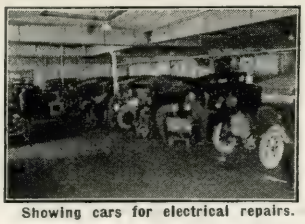

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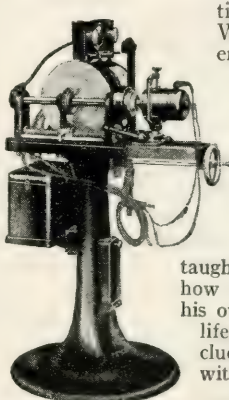

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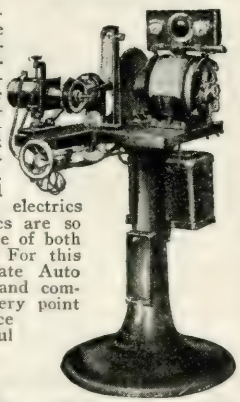

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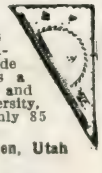

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Eclipses—How Caused

(*Continued from page* 522)

It is evident that an eclipse of the sun is something entirely different from an eclipse of the moon. In the case of a *lunar eclipse* the moon is in the earth's shadow and we cannot see it, altho there is nothing between us and the moon. In the case of a solar eclipse we are in the moon's shadow and we cannot see the source of light, the moon being between us and the sun. When one thoroly understands the reason for an eclipse of the sun he cannot help but laugh at the following "headline" which once appeared in a daily paper of wide circulation on the day after a solar eclipse: "The moon casts its shadow on the *sun!*"

To the average person the sun and the full moon appear about the same size. This is due to the fact that, altho the sun is 400 times as large as the moon, it is 400 times as far away. Consequently, when the moon gets between us and the sun it is usually just large enough to cover the face of the sun and, since it is moving very rapidly, the sun is not hidden very long. In fact, the moon's shadow passes an observer near the equator with a velocity of 1,000 miles per hour. The speed is much greater in higher latitudes.

Since the moon is sometimes closer to the earth than at other times, it will sometimes appear larger than the sun. In this case a total eclipse may last longer than usual. For an observer near the equator an eclipse of the sun may remain total for seven minutes and 58 seconds, while in latitude 36° it cannot last longer than six minutes and 30 seconds.

If the moon is so far from the earth at the time of a solar eclipse that it is not large enough to hide the face of the sun, a *ring of light* will be left around the edge of the moon. This comes from the part of the sun which is not covered up. An eclipse of this nature, which is more frequent than a total eclipse, is known as an annular, or ring-shaped, eclipse. The eclipse of November 22, 1919, was an annular one. For an observer near the equator an annular eclipse may last for 12 minutes and 24 seconds. The duration of the annular eclipse of November 22 was almost up to the maximum.

The cross-section of the moon's shadow at the place where it strikes the earth is generally less than 150 miles in diameter. As has already been stated, everybody within the narrow strip where this shadow traverses the face of the earth will see the moon pass across the face of the sun. That is, they will see a total, or an annular eclipse, according as the diameter of the moon is or is not, large enough to cover the face of the sun. Everyone within 2,000 miles on either side of this strip will see a partial eclipse of the sun. That is, as the moon passes between them and the sun, its center will pass to one side of the center of the sun, leaving one limb of the sun visible all the time. Those observers who live near the narrow strip will see the eclipse almost total, or annular, while those 2,000 miles away will scarcely see any of the sun's disk covered up by the moon. In the case of the solar eclipse of November 22, 1919, the shadow strip began near San Antonio, Texas, and ran thru the Gulf of Mexico, along the northern boundary of South America, across the Atlantic Ocean, and ended in Africa. Everyone in this strip saw an annular eclipse. Those of us who were not fortunate enough to live in this strip saw the eclipse as partial, provided we were not living so far west that the eclipse ended before sunrise.

Altho it is possible for a year to pass without a single eclipse of the moon, the orbits of the earth and moon are so constructed that there must be as many as two solar eclipses every year and there may be as many as five. A year with five solar eclipses must have two lunar eclipses. Consequently there may be as many as seven eclipses per year. This will happen next in 1935. In the year 1917 there were seven eclipses, four of the sun and three of the moon. The most unusual number of eclipses per year is four and, as we have seen, the least possible number is two, both of the sun, and the largest possible number is seven, five solar and two lunar, or four solar and three lunar. In the year 1920 there will be four eclipses, two of the sun and two of the moon.

If the whole earth be taken into account there are more eclipses of the sun than of the moon. That is, the shadow, or the shadow produced, of the moon traverses some part of the earth more often than the moon goes into the shadow of the earth. The ratio is approximately three to two. However, if any given place on the earth be considered, the result is entirely different. The reason for this will be perfectly obvious after a little reflection. Let us remember that the full moon is visible from half the surface of the earth. Then everyone on one side of the earth will see it go into the shadow and since the earth is rotating rapidly on its axis many other observers who did not see it go in, will see it come out. Thus every lunar eclipse is visible from more than half the surface of the earth.

On the other hand, a solar eclipse is total, or annular, only for those who live in the narrow strip mentioned above. Suppose some inhabitant of Mars should reach his arm across the intervening space, and with a brush 150 miles wide, paint a streak at random across the face of the earth as it spins rapidly on its axis. What is the probability that your house would be painted? And you would not see the eclipse as total, or annular, unless your house *was* painted. In fact, unless you were close enough to smell the paint you would not even see a partial eclipse. That is, you could not tell by looking at the sun that anything was happening.

It is obvious that an eclipse of the sun can occur only when the moon is between the earth and the sun; that is, at the time of new moon. The solar eclipses in 1920 will occur at the new moons (May 17 and November 10) following the full moons (May 2 and October 27) at which the lunar eclipses occur.

The eclipses in any year always take place at two opposite seasons, which are called the eclipse months of the year. The eclipse seasons for the year 1920 are May and October-November. After the eclipse of November 10 there cannot be another for about six months.

Eclipses are periodic; that is, they occur at regular intervals. The period is 18 years and 11⅓ days. This period, which was known to the ancient Chaldeans, is called the Saros. All that has been said with reference to eclipses applies not only to us but also to the inhabitants of other heavenly bodies. It is rather unfortunate for those of us who are interested in eclipses that we do not live on Jupiter or Saturn. Each of these planets has nine moons which furnish a great variety of eclipses. These moons move around their primaries (worlds) so rapidly that eclipses of the sun occur every day or so and undoubtedly interfere with business if any business is transacted on these worlds.

Let us suppose that we live on the moon. Then when the moon goes into the shadow of the earth we would see an eclipse of the sun. Why? Because the earth would be between us and the sun. This eclipse would be very interesting since it might last as

(*Continued on page* 526)

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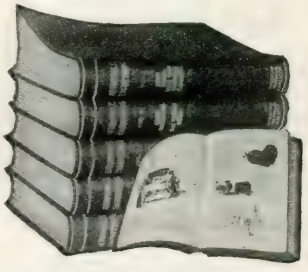

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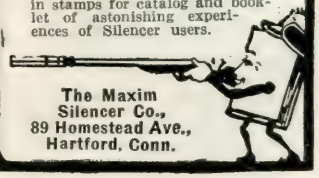

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Eclipses—How Caused

(*Continued from page* 524)

long as two hours. Suppose, on the other hand, that the moon's shadow traverses the earth. Then we would see an eclipse of part of the earth. That is, we would see the moon's shadow pass across the earth at the enormous speed of 1000 miles per hour.

It may be of interest to mention some of the eclipses which have occurred since the dawn of history and to see how they were regarded by man and how they influenced his conduct.

One of the earliest eclipses of which we have any record is mentioned in the Old Testament. Joel (ii, 30, 31) makes the Lord say, "I will shew wonders in heaven and earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke; the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood." The reddish color which the moon assumes during a total eclipse seems to give rise to the expression "to turn the moon into blood." The phophet Amos (VIII, 9) says, "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will spread darkness over the earth in the clear day."

Again, Job (V, 8) says, "Seek Him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with the night."

Schiaparelli, in his interesting book *Astronomy in the Old Testament,* calls attention to the fact that total eclipses of the sun were visible in Palestine on the following dates: August 15, 831 B. C., April 2, 824 B. C., and June 15, 736 B. C. He also mentions the fact that both the eclipse of 831 B. C. and that of 824 B .C. occurred during the lifetime of Joel and Amos, and that the moment of greatest darkness in 831 B. C. occurred in southern Judaea at noon. The two prophets seem to have written of a phenomenon which both of them had witnest.

Several of the later prophets referred to eclipses of the sun. However, in view of the fact that there were no eclipses of the sun visible in Palestine between 763 B. C. and 586 B. C., it is very probable that they obtained their ideas from the earlier prophets. We quote three references.

Micah III-6: "And the sun shall go down over the prophets, and the day shall be dark over them."

Jeremiah XV-9: "Her sun is gone down while it was yet day."

Isaiah XIII-10: "The sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine."

There are several other references to eclipses of the sun and the moon in the Old and New Testament. For example, Job V-14: "They meet with darkness in the daytime and grope in the noonday as in the night." Matthew XXIV-29: "Immediately after the tribulation in those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light."

Herodotus tells us that during the sixth year of the war between the Medes and the Lydians, while the armies were in the midst of the combat, the day suddenly changed into night; whereupon the combatants stopt fighting and establisht peace. Astronomers tell us that this eclipse occurred on May 28, 585 B. C. This eclipse was predicted by Thales of Miletus, one of the Seven Sages, who had obtained his knowledge of astronomy from the Egyptians.

Pericles understood the nature of eclipses and, when an eclipse of the sun threatened to interfere with one of his expeditions, he managed to convince his soldiers that they had nothing to fear.

Christopher Columbus used his knowledge of eclipses to free himself and his companions from the American Indians, who held him prisoner and had reduced him almost to starvation. He happened to remember that an eclipse of the moon was due to occur on March 1, 1504, and he told the Indians that he would cause the moon to go out if they did not bring him food. They paid very little attention at first but when the moon disappeared they brought him plenty of food and worshipt him as a "God."

What's Wrong with the Motor Car

By H. WINFIELD SECOR

(*Continued from page* 479)

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"And what else can I do?", you will ask. Here is what can be done, and just exactly what is being done, in many European countries which are yet smarting under the terrible lash of the World War and its aftermath. In Germany and several other countries, particularly in England, there have been developt several very interesting and thoroly practicable types of *lightweight,* low powered vehicles.

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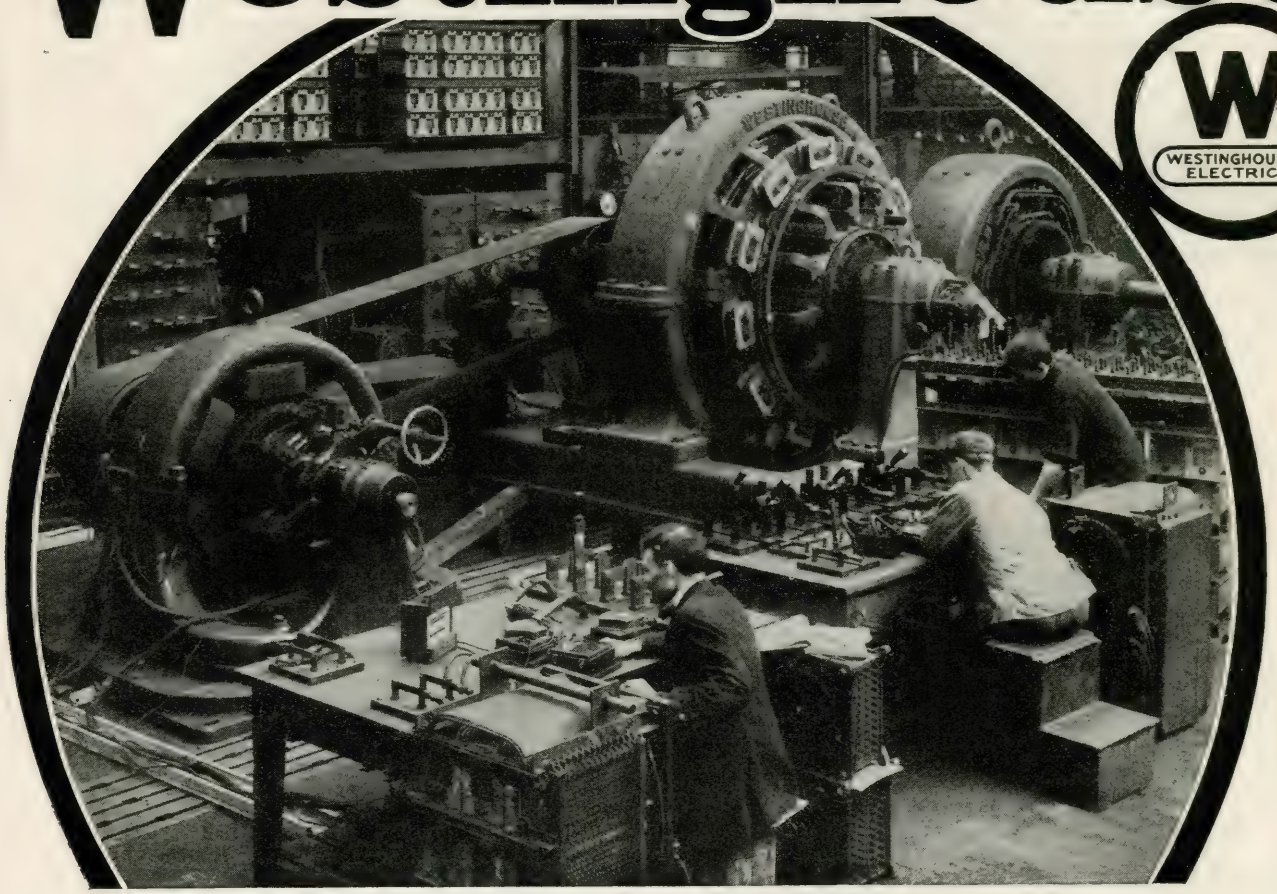
Another important principle and fact which is apparent even to the casual observer if he stops to look at an up-to-date motor car, is the very *complicated procedure* required in handling the vehicle. We do not see many women drivers—only now and then. Why is this, do you suppose? Not necessarily because the gentler sex is afraid of the noise or anything else, but simply because women like to have things (especially machinery of any kind) operate as *safely* and as *simply* as possible; and they have a perfect right to expect this!

The accompanying illustrations show some of the almost unbelievable maneuvers and movements which the modern motor car driver often has to go thru in order to properly drive an automobile of the average type. This is not exaggerated or especially gotten up for the purpose of making a story, either. The writer checked up this matter carefully by referring to standard automobile text-books, and some of the well-known makes of cars in which the devices to be operated by the chauffeur or driver, vary from 10 to as high as 20 and more different parts, such as the Cadillac, the Packard, and several others; but you don't have to pick out any particular car; simply walk up to the first one you see on the street and look it over.

One of the latest inventions of present interest and demonstrated at the last New York Auto Show, was a fluid turbine drive or transmission which eliminates all gears and gear shifts, permitting all speeds and any variety of them to be obtained by the manipulation of a *single lever!* It can be fitted on any car and relegates the gear box and 4 or 5 position lever quadrant to the scrap pile, where it belongs. All you need is a speed control lever, steering wheel and one foot pedal for the brakes.

Westinghouse



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An opportunity to earn while you are learning. To choose that phase of work, engineering or commercial, to which you are naturally inclined and fitted. To qualify for a responsible position in the field of engineering with the Westinghouse organization.

A class of thirty selected men will begin September 1. If you are interested in electricity and have not been able to go to college, this is your opportunity.

Apply in your own handwriting for further information to

THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Company

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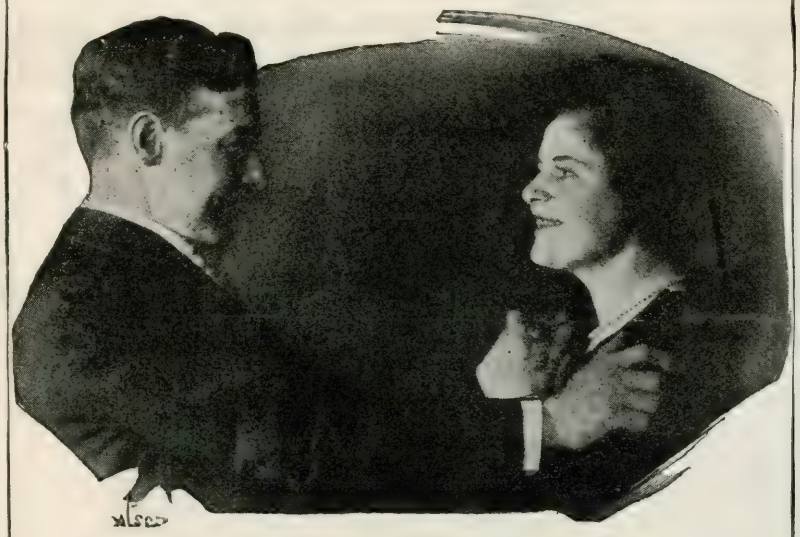

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Is Very Easy to Get, if You Go About It in the Right Way

You have often heard of others who doubled and trebled their salaries in a year's time. You wondered how they did it. Was it a pull? Don't you think it. When a man is hired he gets paid for exactly what he does, there is no sentiment in business. It's preparing for the future and knowing what to do at the right time that doubles and trebles salaries.

Remember When You Were a Kid

and tried to ride a bike for the very first time? You thought that you would never learn and then—all of a sudden you knew how, and said in surprise: "Why it's a cinch if you know how." It's that way with most things, and getting a job with big money is no exception to the rule, if you know how.

We Will Show You How

Without loss to you of a single working hour we can show you a sure way to success and big pay. A large number of men in each of the positions listed are enjoying their salaries because of our help—we want to help you. Make check on the coupon against the job you want and we will help you to get it. Write or print your name on the coupon and send it in today.

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Name.....Address.....

"Liquid Air"

By PROF. T. O'CONNOR SLOANE, PH. D.

(*Continued from page* 474)

liquefaction of air has led to the discovery of the rare gases of the air, neon, cription, xenon and niton.

EATING LIQUID AIR

When liquid air is poured out into the atmosphere, as over the hand, it produces a sort of smoky vapor. This is due to the condensation of the moisture of the atmosphere and it may be of carbon dioxide, jroducing quite a striking effect. It may be taken into the mouth, when the cloud of condensed water vapor is still more pronounced. It is said that it has even been swallowed without permanent ill effects. It must have been rather inflating to say the least.

If placed in unsilvered vacuum receivers, a considerable ebullition will first be observed, and the outer vessel will soon become clouded with water from the air which eventually freezes, giving a coat of hoar to the glass.

It may be placed in a vessel which is then tightly corked. In a short time the air will blow the cork out with any degree of violence, according to how tightly it was forced in.

A test tube full of mercury freezes solid after a short immersion in liquid air and can be taken in a wooden test tube holder and made to drive a nail. The old trick done in the arctic regions by natural cold may be done here *by freezing a bullet of mercury in a mould and firing it thru a board.*

A soft lead wire is wound into a spiral. When cooled to liquid air temperature it is highly elastic and supports a weight as if it were brass or steel. But if warmed by standing in the air or by blowing upon it, the elasticity disappears and the wire straightens out.

Iron becomes brittle. An iron flask which has been chilled by it can be broken by a hammer as if it were glass.

A kettle of liquid air will boil slowly in the air; to make it boil violently it may be placed on a lump of ice.

Liquid air makes india rubber brittle. A piece immersed in it becomes like glass and can be fractured by a blow. A piece of beefsteak can be treated in the same way and will break into fragments.

If an iron or other ball of metal is dipt into liquid air and kept in it until it attains the temperature of the air and is then placed in a Bunsen burner gas flame it will precipitate a cloud of carbon dioxide and of water vapor from the products of combustion of the gas notwithstanding the heat of the flame.

Oxygen is strongly magnetic; the liquid can be attracted like iron filings by a powerful magnet; air will act in the same way when liquefied, on account of its oxygen constituent. If the temperature of the air is reduced so as to freeze the nitrogen, a magnet will draw the liquid oxygen out of the partly frozen mass.

Electrical Machinist

By H. WINFIELD SECOR.

(*Continued from page* 508)

noise. A very important thing to watch in this connection and a problem which should be checked whenever possible by means of an angle gage, calibrated in degrees, is the *pitch* of the blades.

"What to do when the armature strikes the field poles,"—is often a serious question. There is one correct remedy for this trouble, and that is to rebush the bearings or else replace the old worn bearings with new ones, so that the armature will rotate in its exact central axis, between the field pole.

Figure 3-A shows an armature placed in the lathe and driven by a dog in connection with the face plate, tooling off a fine cut with a diamond point steel tool.

One of the simplest remedies resorted to when the bearing plates seem to lock the armature, preventing its free rotation, when they are clampt into place on the field frame, is to use two or more metal *shims* placed behind one side or the other of the bearing plate or plates, as occasion may demand, so as to get the bearings into alinement in order that the armature shaft can rotate freely. This is simply a case of "cut and try" until you can make the shaft rotate with the minimum degree of friction.

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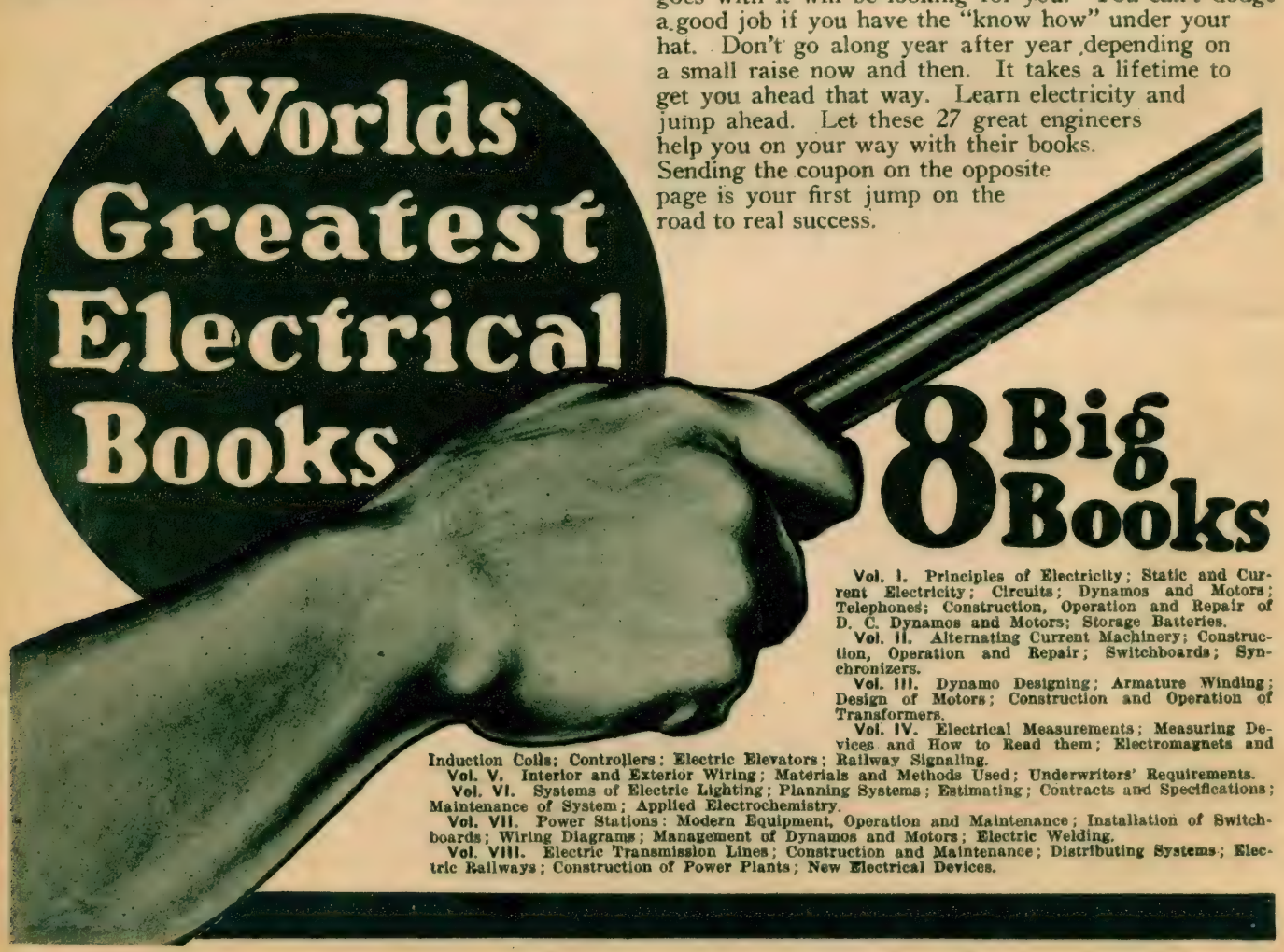

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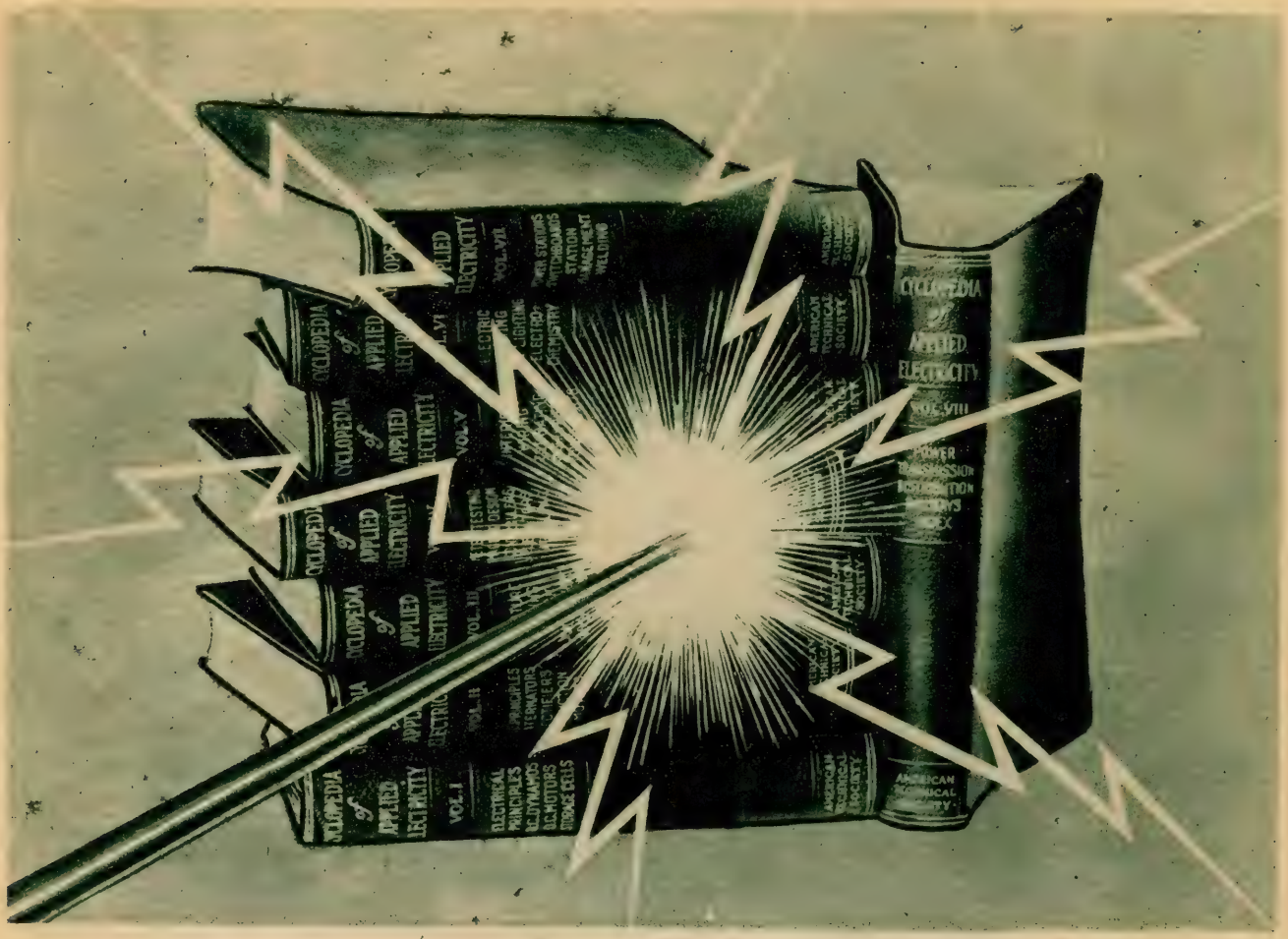

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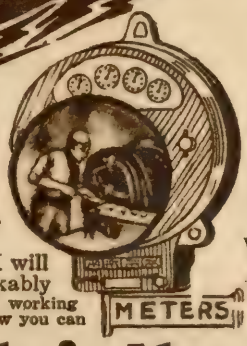

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STORAGE BATTERY

Learn Electricity

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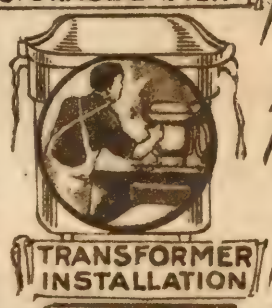
I am a practical Electrical Engineer of twenty-five years' experience. From this practical experience I have prepared a thorough, up-to-date course of home-study instruction which is easy and quick to learn. **I teach you myself.** You are under my personal guidance throughout the entire course. I do not turn any part of the instruction of my students over to assistants or employees. And to master this course requires no sacrifice on your part. You don't even need to give up your present job.

By devoting a part of your spare time to pleasant study and practical experimenting right in your own home you should very quickly prepare yourself for a good electrical position or for a business of your own. I have already helped hundreds to get out of small-paying, no-future jobs. C. A. Walker says: "Offered a fine position." J. Obeslo says: "Have a chance to run city electric plant." E. Vogel writes: Successfully installing electrical systems."

I taught and advised them. I can give you the same kind of personal instruction—and am willing to boost you to a better job and bigger pay just as I have helped and am helping others. Just a little determination on your part, backed up with earnest effort. That's all you need. I'll then see to it personally that you get just the kind of practical instruction that an electrician must have in order to succeed. The cost is small—the terms are easy.



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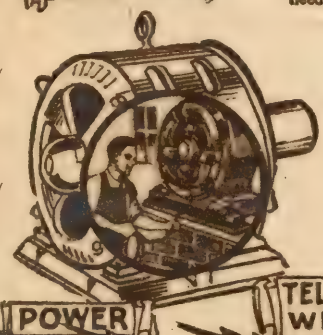

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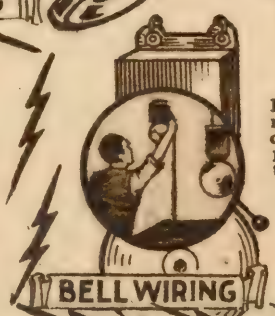
SWITCHBOARD



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What to Do with Your Old Phonograph—Contest

(*Continued from page* 499)

We have given these examples simply to show what can be done. Of course there are thousands of other good ideas and we have no doubt that our readers will think of many good ones.

We will give three prizes as mentioned elsewhere. The first prize being for $25.00, the second for $15.00 and the third for $10.00, for the best ideas submitted. Please note that the judges will take into consideration *the utility of the device.* In other words the chances are that the idea that is really useful, will win the first prize. Also remember that the idea must be of such a nature that it does not interfere with the operation of the phonograph.

Suppose we publish such a device or such an idea thru our columns. The chances are that if the thing is good a manufacturer of such novelties will not be slow in seeing a large financial benefit from the manufacture of the device. Our readers should always bear in mind that when a device or idea is publisht the originator has *two years in which to patent his device.*

This contest will close on September 10th and the prizes will be announced in the November issue. Address all letters to *Editor Phonograph Prize Contest,* c/o this publication. In the event of a tie for any prize an identical award will be given to each tying contributor.

Practical Chemical Experiments

By PROF. FLOYD L. DARROW

(*Continued from page* 503)

beneath. Place on the table, sensitive side up, a photographic plate wrapt in heavy black paper. On this plate lay a book containing a key, a coin or some other dense object. Then start your coil and allow the X-rays to penetrate the book and plate for several minutes. Then stop the action of the tube, remove the plate and by the light of a ruby lamp develop and fix it in the usual way. The result will be a *Radiograph.*

(*Next instalment will appear in the October number.*)

How We "Taste"

By JOSEPH H. KRAUS

(*Continued from page* 478)

has been benumbed by imbibing a salt solution, such as ordinary table salt, distilled water will taste sweet. For the same reason ordinary water tastes sweet after excessive salt water swimming, a fact which everyone has noticed but hardly ever investigated perhaps.

Of course, the taste areas in the tongue are localized in certain regions. The *tip* will react more easily to sweet and sour substances than the *back,* which is more sensitive to the bitter sensations. Even the distinctive cells will react differently. A mixture of quinine and sugar if applied to one papillae will excite a bitter taste, whereas on adjacent papillae may give us chiefly a sweet sensation. If all these papillae are then painted with cocaine, the first effect will be the diminution of pain sensibility, whence the application of an acid will evoke a very sour taste without the ordinary astringent or stinging sensations normally formed.

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The very day you are proficient in any branch of engineering, you will find scores of concerns ready to pay you the full value of your services. Never before such a demand for good technical men as now. Not nearly enough men are prepared for the goods jobs that are waiting. And—in the hours you ordinarily waste you can soon equip yourself for a big pay job. Don't put this off—at least send for information about Chicago "Tech" training. Let us give you the facts about the branch you would like to take up. See coupon below. Mark, sign and mail it now.

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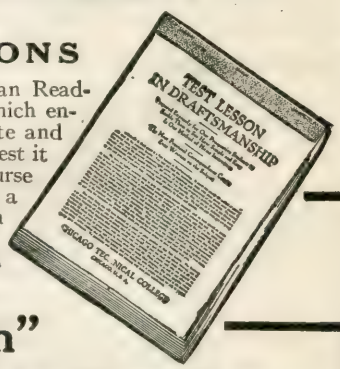

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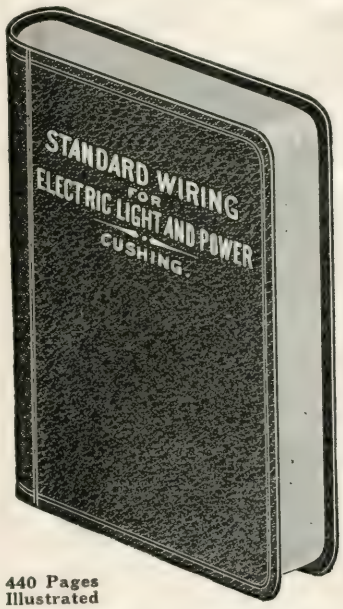

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The continued use of this drug shows us that the bitter sensation of taste will disappear first, then the sweet and then the sour, and lastly, an affected taste will remain, namely, that of salt. Various other drugs can command control of the taste sensations, so that any combination can be obtained and salt and sweet eliminated or other combinations, just as desired.

There is not the slightest doubt but that the chemical composition of the substances acting on the taste-buds and nerves, is chiefly the active ingredient, determined by the presence of "H" ions in acid and "O H" ions in alkaline liquids. This is definitely proven by the fact that acetic acid, for instance, has a much stronger sour taste than mineral acid, even tho the latter are stronger chemically and capable of causing more violent actions from which fact we can conclude that the greater the number of "H" ions present, the greater the sense of predominating acid taste, altho, as yet, we do not understand the law which determines whether any given substance shall have a taste at all or what its taste should be. The nerves of taste are chiefly branches of the 5th, 7th, and the 9th nerves—Cranial nerves—(man has twelve). Most of the so-called "tastes," however, should in reality be designated as *flavors,* and are not dependent upon the stimulation of the taste nerves, but upon the sense of *Smell!* It has been found that *if the latter is destroyed, very little difference is distinguished between an onion and an apple;* and hence, if we did not know of the difference in appearances of the two "fruits" the forbidden fruit of Adam and Eve, could readily pass as society's ostracized fruit, the onion.

But, do not tell an epicure that he can only realize six tastes and that he *smells the rest of the tastes* as you are quite sure to be the victim of a "red-hot" argument in a few moments. Nevertheless, this is quite true and you would be correct, for during an attack of grippe or influenza,—when we no longer can smell well—even the most delicious aromatic viands are practically tasteless. (Foods are also rendered practically tasteless after some nasal operations.)

Identical with the other *senses,* the *taste stimulation* is announced in the *Brain;* perhaps thru a chemical action or change in the nerve itself, or perhaps because of an electrical announcement to the main switchboard. In the latter case, inasmuch as the nerve terminates around the cell, in fine tree-like branches, a condenser-like action probably takes place.

Electricity, or electrical impulse has been demonstrated to exist whenever a nerve acts, by means of extremly sensitive instruments, and it may be that electricity is the predominating feature in all nerve-responses; so nearly completed is the proof of this statement that it will be but a matter of a short time before some great neurologist announces this discovery to the world.

This much is known about the nerves. Each nerve is covered by a sheath known as *Krause's membrane* which sheath is broken up into portions. If this sheath is destroyed, nerve action is seriously upset. The sheath itself it quite an insulator to electric "juice" and it may be that the sheath exhibits a condenser-like action, much the same as the action believed to take place between sense cells and the terminal arborization of the nerves.

Another feature in favor of the *electronic theory,* is that electricity generally concentrates upon points or projections and terminal nerves invariably project in the form of countless minute points; thus making it easy enough to put two and two together.

So when a cell is stimulated the action upon the nerve surrounding it could well resemble the condenser action of radio; particularly sensitive would be the other plate, with fine points to catch even the very slightest effect.

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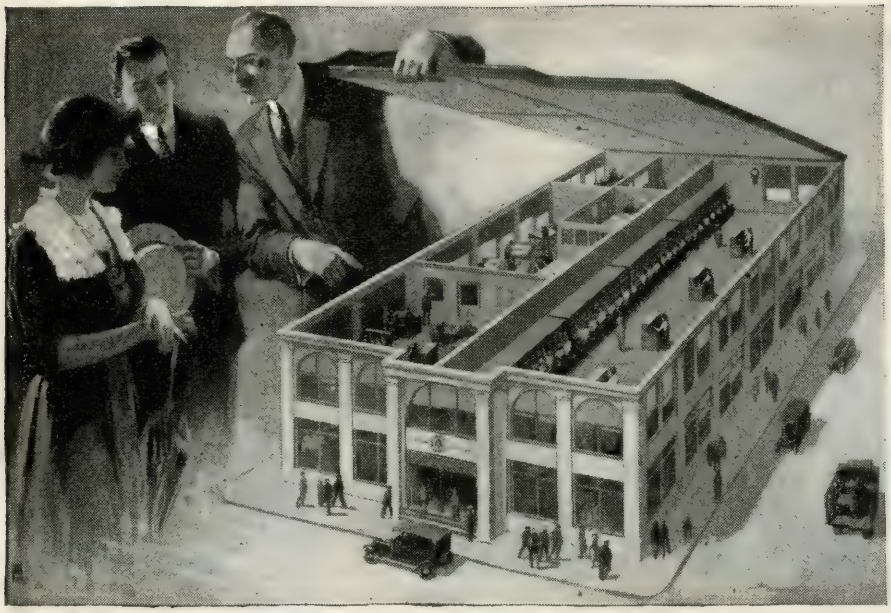

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Timing Sunlight for Plants

(*Continued from page* 477)

showed no tendency to blossom as late as February 12, 1920.

IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON CROP YIELDS.

The influence of this discovery on crop yield is likely to be of no little importance. The length of day is proved to be the most potent factor in determining the relative proportions between the vegetative and fruiting parts of many crop plants. Indeed, fruiting may be completely suppressed by a day either too long or too short. The advance in agricultural practise which may come thru this new discovery will have to be brought about largely by plant breeders and other crop specialists. For instance, it will prove of material significance in the future planning of cropping systems for different regions, especially where consideration of new crops from different latitudes is necessary.

This new principle undoubtedly explains the erratic behavior which has been observed with many crops when they are shifted to different latitudes, and may also clear up the conflicting results of variety tests and field tests conducted with the same crops but in different regions. The experiments have shown, for instance, that ragweed requires for flowering a stimulus that is afforded by the shortening of the days and lengthening of the nights. It does not come into flower until the period of daylight falls below 15 hours. In the latitude of Washington, that comes about July 1. But if ragweed seed should be taken to northern Maine and planted, the plants would not experience a length of day below 15 hours until about August 1. Therefore, they could not come into flower until after August 1 and, tho the vegetative growth might be very rank, they could not mature seed before killing frosts intervened. The long days, therefore, make it impossible for ragweed to perpetuate itself in that latitude. On the other hand, plants that get their flowering stimulus from a long day could not perpetuate themselves thru seed formation at the equator, where the day never exceeds 12 hours.

EXPLAINS LUXURIANT GROWTH IN NORTHERN LATITUDES.

This principle affords the clue to the fact that many plants grow most luxuriantly near the northern limit of their range. The long northern day allows them to attain their maximum growth before the shorter day intervenes to check vegetative growth and start the reproductive process.

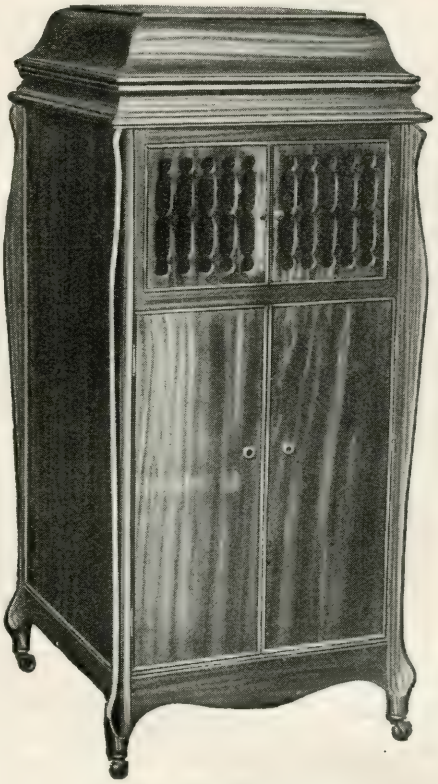
It may be found eventually, say the men who worked out the principle, that the animal organism, also, is capable of responding to the stimulus of certain day lengths. They believe that the migration of birds may be an illustration. Direct response to such a stimulus, they say, is more in line with modern teachings of biology than theories which assume that birds migrate as a matter of instinct.

WIRELESS PHONE IN IRELAND.

In consequence of the frequency with which telephone and telegraph wires in Ireland are being cut, the Government has decided on an extensive use of wireless telephony there.

Naval signal men are being employed to start the system, and it is intimated that portable telephones with a radius of about thirty miles are being employed in transmitting messages from one police station to another, or between adjacent towns.

It is asserted that the system has proved satisfactory.



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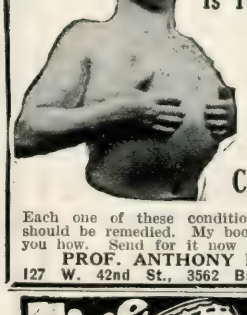

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Plant or Animal—which?

By WILLIAM M. BUTTERFIELD

(*Continued from page 475*)

whip-tail and adopt true animal movements. The bodies after a time collect in clusters, and unite into one body to form a young inert jelly-like mass.

In the end they ultimately form a *creeping* jelly-like mass of individuals, thus combining acts for the time as an independent organism. It often takes on the most brilliant red, yellow, purple, orange, green or similar shades, according to species. Soon it penetrates the substances of dead wood or spreads over the surface of dead leaves, bark, etc., in a network of veins, taking a somewhat fan-shaped outline. The more fluid matter in the interior of the veins streams constantly thru them, like the blood in the veins of man; the current continuing in one direction for a certain period, usually a minute and a half, when it stops—and after a moment's pause, reverses its course, flowing the opposite way for about the same length of time, but rather longer in the direction in which the jelly-mass is moving.

It is by this means that the mass creeps forward, the object being, it would appear, to obtain food—the kinds of food required for some of the species at this state of development being well known by investigators who have cultivated the varieties.

After a spell of creeping about in this fashion, which may extend over a period of weeks, months, or even in one known instance a year, the mass concentrates first compactly as shown in Fig. 8; then, in the case of *comatricha obtusata*, Fig. 9, the individuals prepare to form again into independent centers, finally dividing into thirty or forty masses. Within an hour or two these have risen to form pear-shaped bodies as seen at Fig. 10.

In six hours the black hair-like stalk has grown to its full length and bears at its summit the young ball-like spore-pod, which now consists of a white globule of viscous protoplasmic cells, with a diameter of about one-fifth of the length of the stalk.

A pink flush now begins to pervade the seed-receptacle, caused by the formation of the dark branching threads (Fig. 14) of the capillary stems. The nuclei still presents the same appearance as when observed in the streaming jelly-mass; in an hour they show the beginning of a kernel-moving division, and the cells soon become separated into masses of two spore capacity: an hour later the final division has taken place.

Now as the dark spore-walls are produced, the color of the spore-pods rapidly darkens, and about twenty hours after their first construction the groups stand in regular order on the wood.

The fungi have constructed before our very eyes a miniature forest of peculiar appearing plants with the pod of each filled with seeds. Before the seeds were formed, you remember, each fungi constructed a scaffolding of hairs joined together in meshes and forming an elastic net, lying with its strands surrounding the seeds as they finally mature. This net which is called *capillitum* serves the purpose of protection during growth, and from its peculiar construction making it writhe and twist with the least change of moisture at the time when the seeds are ripening, thus separating and loosening them; it also springs out (Fig. 14) like a jack-in-the-box when the delicate membranous covering of the spor pod burst under its strain, scattering seeds in every direction.

It would appear, in reviewing the cycle, that there really is *no difference between an animal and a plant.*

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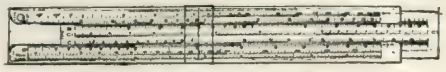

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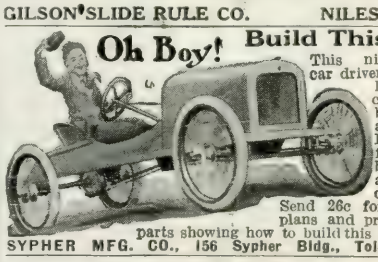

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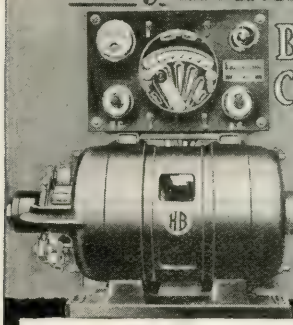

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By O. C. ROOS

(*Continued from page* 489)

switches, and whenever anyone was thru reading a projected exposure, for instance, a translation comparing it with the original source in a hotly contested case, he'd simply press his particular switch. *The last man to press his own switch would complete the circuit,* and the automatic projector would show the next exposure and the switches would all be *reset* again."

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Engineer—"I'll wager they found plenty of reasons urged against the system. There are just natural born vicious-minded people, you know. James might call them 'tender-minded,' but I prefer 'mulish.'"

Promoter—"Yes, I know what you're driving at. They want a 'praying' market. On its knees, as it were, for some one's pet product."

Engineer—"You can scarcely convince such people that demandor and demandee react, and irritate each other into growth. The presence of the new apparatus is like what our chemical friends call a 'catalyzer.'"

Promoter—"What's that?"

Engineer—"Why, it's the mental business minister who marries the transmitter idea to the receiver, in developing ideas. In chemistry, a third substance often unites two others, and itself comes from the process scot-free of any evidence of collusion or collision."

Promoter—"Oh! I see. Now, let's hope that the churches, colleges and schools are getting as much good out of this as the professionals, like you chaps. Why, I can see lots of ways for a business man to get into this thing."

Second Lawyer—"I've been listening attentively for some time and I've got this to say: There is more studying to be done by lawyers, doctors, engineers and in students' 'quiz' time around examination periods than you fellows even dream of. That's because a projector costs less than $25.00 per person, for even small groups, and you saw today how cheaply we got off at the library on *film expense.* There's no fire risk whatever and I've watched them go back and forth by electrical means over disputed texts 400 pages long, without even touching the projector. Even in 1920 a 1000 watt lamp, I'm told, would not damage the film during the wait necessary while several persons were engaged in reading a page of script projected on the screen."

Engineer — "Let's begin. (Presses a special switch by his seat on a small panel giving main control.) Oh! There's Fig. No. 1. You see in this 60 foot room how easily the text is read. There you see 75 lines, but we could project and make out clearly 100 lines if necessary."

First Lawyer—"I've read projected small type letters ¾ inch high easily at 100 feet with a good 1000 watt lamp. I think that a 40-foot throw and 5/8-inch letters, with a 400 watt lamp is very good. Now let's all make notes on this first page, and then everyone will press his particular *series key.*" (They all finish in about 15 minutes and the next two pages of the patent are then suddenly flasht on the screen.)

Engineer—"I'll turn off the projection

(*Continued on page* 564)

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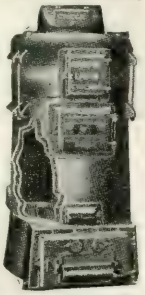

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Undersea Amusement Park

By F. E. LOUDY, A.E.

(*Continued from page 482*)

dersea amusement palace are multifarious and vari-colored in the extreme. Those who have seen large electrically illuminated fountains in operation at night, such as that at Willow Grove Park, near Philadelphia, will have some idea of the wonderful opportunities here presented to the illumination specialist charged with the task of working out a suitable lighting scheme for the resort. Searchlights or powerful nitrogen filled incandescent lamps, or argon filled incandescent lamps will vie with myriads of small incandescent tungsten lamps. Searchlights or else powerful flood lights of the gas filled type, will project beams of varying colors and of changing hues from the inner side of the breakwater.

These lamps are maintained and supplied with current over heavily insulated wires passing down thru small vertical shafts built in the concrete wall, in the manner shown in the illustration. In the event that it is necessary to repair part of the structure or for other reasons, it may be desirable or necessary to empty the water out of the basin in which the resort is situated, suitable high powered motor driven pumps will be available to pump the water back into the sea.

When the basin is to be refilled, it is only necessary to open the sea valves and the water will then run into the basin.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, etc., required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912; of ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER, published monthly, at New York, N. Y., for April 1, 1920.

State of New York, County of New York, ss.

Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Hugo Gernsback, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of the ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Experimenter Publishing Co., 233 Fulton St., New York City; Editor, Hugo Gernsback, 233 Fulton St., New York City; Managing Editor, Harry Winfield Secor, 233 Fulton St., New York City; Business Manager, Hugo Gernsback, 233 Fulton St., New York City.

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H. GERNSBACK.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of April, 1920.

Beatrice K. Owen, Notary Public, New York County, New York; New York County No. 57; New York Register No. 1129. (My commission expires Mar. 30, 1921. (Seal.)

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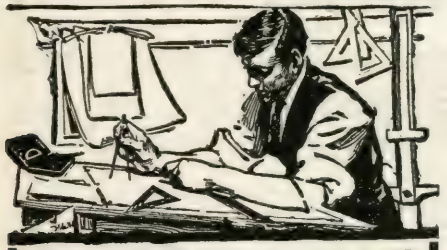

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The Whirling Eye

By THOMAS W. BENSON and CHARLES S. WOLFE

(*Continued from page* 487)

profession, and I dared not take up the defense, for if Mehlman still retained command of the faculty that had made him the terror of many a college professor, his logic would make short work of any case I might make.

For Mehlman had been my chum and room-mate at college. He had gone in for engineering, and he certainly was one of the most promising men that had ever graduated from our *alma mater*. I had lost track of him after he had gone down to South America to build railroads, and to find him in a patient's cell in an asylum was to see the impossible realized.

I dropped into the one chair in his room. "For the love of the Lord, Mehlman, what did you do that they sent you here?"

He grinned again. "Fell in love with a Venusian," he returned coolly, and the curve of his sensitive mouth was half humorous, half sad.

"A Venusian!" I echoed blankly.

"A Venusian," he replied emphatically. "An inhabitant of the planet Venus! It isn't being done in the best circles, you know!"

I turned to scrutinize him thoroly, and my slight move did not escape his keen eyes. He laughed with the greatest good nature in the world. "Now you know I'm crazy, eh?" he bantered playfully.

"Circumstances alter cases, Fred," I rejoined, slowly and gravely. "That statement, made in earnest by most anyone but Fred Mehlman, would be sufficient evidence of a positive nature for me. But you know that you have a prejudiced judge before you, old man, and I reserve judgment until I've heard more of this tale. Suppose you unburden yourself to your old pal, Fred, freely and fully, and if there is anything that I can do for you, old boy, you know that you can count on me."

Silently he held out his hand, and I wrung it until he winced. For a moment he sat lost in thought. Then he looked up and said abruptly, "There's one thing you can do, Jack, that I'll appreciate beyond words."

"And that is—?"

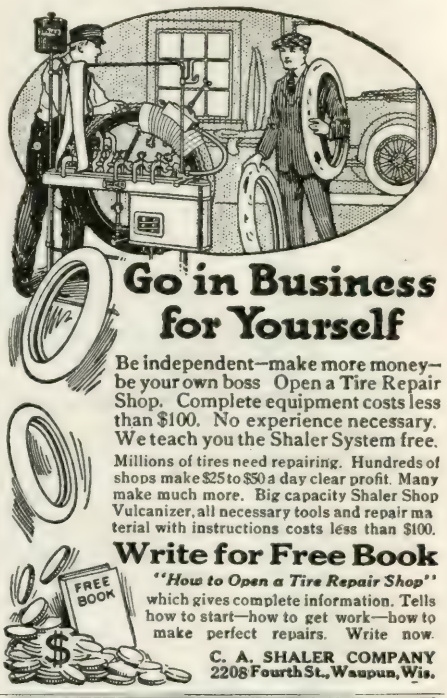
"Give me a smoke," he sighed wearily. "If there's one complaint I have to make against my keepers, it is that they have set an infernally long interval between smokes."

I rose and raised the window a trifle. "I'll violate the rules," I laughed, proffering my cigarette case and holding a match for him, "and join you. Now let me have the details of this horrible mess you've gotten yourself into. What's all this nonsense about the planet Venus?"

And then, sitting contentedly on the bed and swinging his feet, pausing now and then to puff deeply on his cigarette, he told his story, told it calmly and without a trace of irrationality or betraying excitement. I quote it practically verbatim in order that you may draw your own conclusions.

"It began down in South America," Mehlman said slowly. "Another chap and I were out on their God-forsaken prairies for months on end, with only the motley labor gang for company. You've no idea how tired of each other two people can get if they are thrown in each other's way every hour of the twenty-four for months that way. To keep from going mad and killing each other we had to devise something to pass our time with besides endless conversation.

"We turned to astronomy. Why? Well, for one thing, it was the easiest thing



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within reach. Lying on our blankets at night, we would stare up at the constellations in the Southern sky, picking out and identifying a star here and there and the groups. We began with the naked eye, and it was surprising what a lot we could locate after we got the swing of the thing. Then we followed their movements and began making calculations. Astronomy is fascinating, Jack, even here in the flesh-pots, where there are a thousand and one other things to divert you from the contemplation of the universe.

"We grew quite wrapt up in our game and began writing to the States for textbooks and literature. Most of it took months to arrive, and when it did reach us we fairly ate the stuff up.

"Quite naturally, we outgrew the limitations imposed by our eyes, and on one of my rare trips to the outside I packed in a modest three-inch refractor.

"Of course, this telescope broadened our field and opened up new wonders for our contemplation. We would be at it late into the night, and thru the day, when not actually at our posts, we'd indulge in endless discussions.

"Now, here's the funniest part of the whole business. Being engineers, you'd think that the purely mathematical side of the thing would have claimed the greatest part of our attention, wouldn't you? The calculations of orbits and transits and eclipses and things like that. Well, it didn't. Neither of us ever devoted much time to that sort of thing after the first few months. No, sir. How, didn't concern us very much. Why and what were the big questions for us.

"We fell to speculating. Were any of those twinkling little fellows that defied our lenses inhabited? If they were, what type of creatures would be on them? Did they breathe the same kind of atmosphere that we did? Maybe they lived and had their being in water like the fish, eh?

"After a few months of this kind of stuff that railroad seemed a mighty little thing to us. In fact, the whole blamed earth and what we are pleased to call its momentous affairs became trivial as we strained our gaze out into the infinite and tried to read God's riddle.

"Warped? Monomania? You begin to think I'm in the right boarding house? Well, maybe. But, man, man, it takes a supreme egoist to imagine for one little minute that out of all those millions of globes hanging out there in boundless space our own particular little fly-speck should have been singled out by the Creator as the one suitable abode for an intelligent and creating race. The man who believes that must necessarily also believe that all those stars were hung out there for adornment or for our amusement. For, unless some of them are thriving, inhabited worlds, they are the most useless things we know anything about.

"I'm crazy, according to folks who should know, but it seems to me that any one who can imagine that God Almighty hung the stars up there just for the fun of the thing will stand a little investigating himself.

"That's a trifle off the main theme of my yarn, of course, but I mention it to you to show you our viewpoint. Logically, after having reached the unanimous conclusion that many of the stars were dwelling places of animal life, we were quite frantic to get a glimpse of some of these creatures.

"In this frame of mind, we soon grew dissatisfied with our poor little three-inch refractor. We began to speculate on the possibility of getting a close enough glimpse at the face of some planet to settle the question beyond peradventure.

"We dwelt on this subject until it became an obsession. It carried us far into the theory of telescope construction. We even

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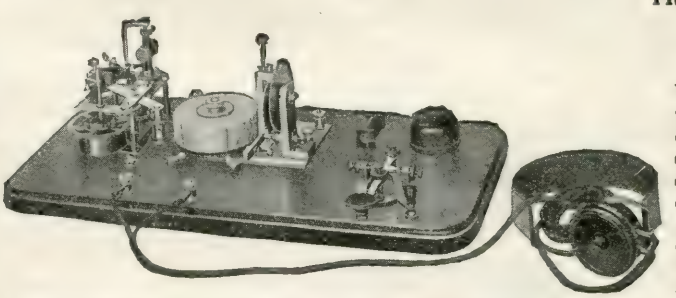

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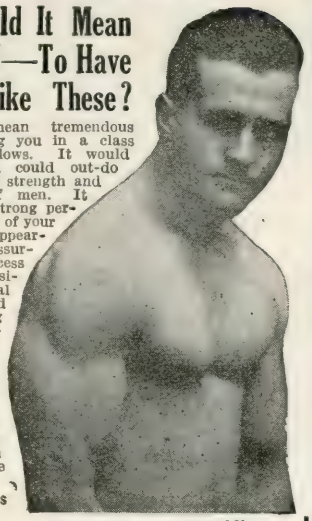

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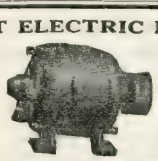

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considered constructing one out there in that abominable scrub. Indeed, we went so far as to turn over methodically all the problems which we must solve out there in order to be successful. I believe we could have done it, too, but another and more serious problem arose, which seemed unsurmountable.

"Know anything about telescopes? Not a whole lot, eh? Well, I'll give you the pith of the matter briefly. There are two classes, the *refracting* and the *reflecting*. You look straight thru the refracting kind, like field or opera glasses somewhat, while in the reflecting you have a shallow, concave mirror, like a dish, with which you gather as much light as possible, depending mostly on the size of your mirror. Then you bring all the light rays to a focus at a point away up near the top of your tube, at which point it forms a minute image of the object from whence the light is being reflected. This image you view thru magnifying eye-pieces.

"Well, we learned that the world's biggest refractor measured some forty inches across the lens. That is, that was the diameter of the field lens. And that is about the limit, too. It won't make a whole lot of difference, so far as our problem is concerned, if they made it fifty inches. And the reason that this is the limit is a simple one. A moment's reflection will show you that, inasmuch as you look thru the glass, the thing must be supported on its edges, its weakest point. As a forty-inch lens weighs into the tons, you see that they cannot do much more in that direction.

"The world's biggest reflector, on the other hand, is at Mt. Wilson, right here in the U. S. A., and represents about the limit in that direction. That mirror weighs some thirteen ton, and the difficulty of getting a flawless piece of glass much larger than that is enormous, to say nothing of the grinding, figuring and polishing, if they do get them bigger.

"Now, the point of all this is this: With the biggest they've got they are not getting down to the surface of any of those other globes. About the best they can do is a rather vague picture of the moon's surface, showing us a few mountains and leaving all the big, vital questions unanswered.

"Well, that's where we stalled. Undoubtedly we could build a telescope out there larger than the one we had, but it was equally true that we could not hope to anywhere near equal the world's best, and these were not good enough for our purpose.

"So we contented ourselves with mapping out a campaign to be fought out when we reached civilization once more.

"Many a night we planned and discust. We soon realized that if we would accomplish our end we must find some instrument radically different from what was in vogue.

"And once we admitted this, we were forced to admit that we had about exhausted the possibilities of glass. Some other medium we must find in order to outdo the work of the Mt. Wilson telescope.

"I can't tell you which one of us struck the idea first. I guess that we are both entitled to an equal share of whatever credit there is in our find. For the idea just grew out of our endless councils. Anyway, we had a beautiful little scheme all ready for a tryout when we could get back to the States."

Mehlman paused to gaze reflectively out into the dark night. Absently his fingers groped into his pocket, and then, remembering himself, he flushed. "Give me a cigarette, old man," he said, apologetically.

In silence I proffered my case, and he continued the narration.

"Poor Jackson didn't come back to the

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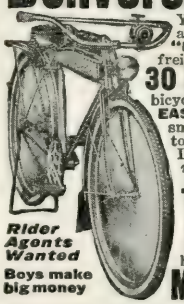

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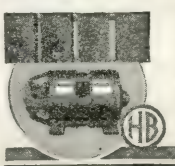

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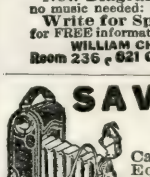

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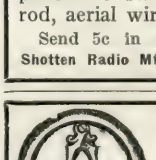

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States. A snake bit him out there on the Pampas. They have the damnedest snakes. So I arrived alone and set about constructing the thing we had worked out between us.

"Of course, I kept the thing a secret. Months of star-gazing, even, had failed to iron out of my nature that cute little trait of mankind—selfishness. Also, it just about broke me to construct the thing. I don't care—it was worth it.

"I built my five-hundred-inch reflector. How did I do it? Oh, I'll give you all the details. The selfishness thing is all out of me now. I gave the alienists the details, too, and this is where it brought me. You see, my instrument had been destroyed by fire, and I couldn't back my statements.

"I made that reflector out of mercury. Yes, that was the whole trick, that and the apparatus I had to build to handle it. I won't bore you with the mechanical details of the thing—an outline ought to do. You see, if you take a pool of mercury in a pan and whirl it, when you get sufficient speed up several natural forces act to shape the mercury into the form of a speculum.

"And there, without tedious months of casting and grinding and polishing, I had my reflecting mirror, the largest the world had ever known.

"Of course, I had many little problems to work out. To get the necessary smoothness of surface of *the whirling mercury pool,* for instance, the pan must be tremorless. The slightest tremor will ripple the whole surface, which would destroy its value as a reflector. The pivoting arrangement and the driving mechanism cost me much labor, but Jackson and I had already worked them out on paper down in South America.

"Another bothersome obstacle was the focal length of the thing. That is, the rays came to a focus so far above the surface of the mirror that the tube for the telescope would have been a discouragingly huge affair. To overcome this I resorted to an arrangement of prisms and lenses worked out by poor old Jackson, and when I got the whole thing completed the tube of my telescope was only twenty feet above the floor of my modest little observatory.

"I find it hard to tell the rest of my story calmly, Rose, and if you are going to judge me by my manner from now on to the end of the yarn, I fear that you are going to have plenty to be suspicious of.

"I ask you to put yourself in my place. After years of patient toil and waiting I was about to gaze into the most powerful tube yet devised by man. Do you wonder that my nerves gave way to the strain? And I confess to you that as evening slowly approached on that fateful day I went about my preparations gibbering to myself in a fashion about as bad as anything you have here, I guess.

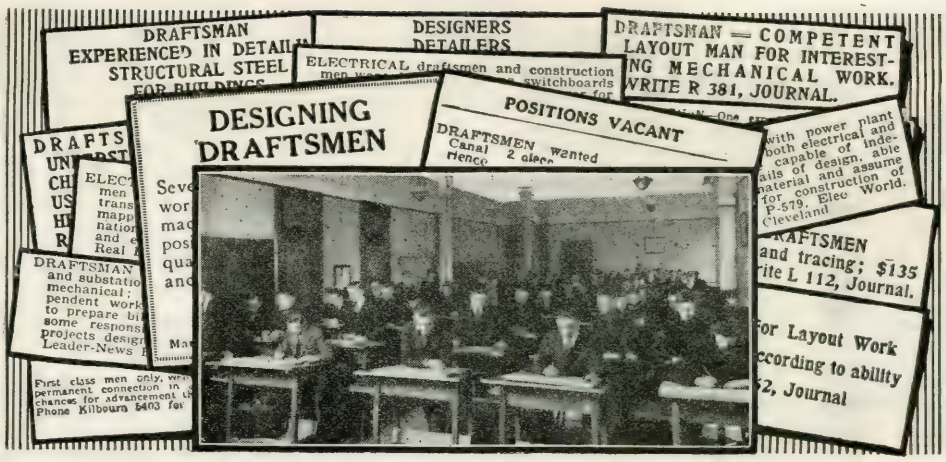
"I'll pass that part. There are minutes that I don't like to think of myself, minutes full of foreboding that, after all, the thing would not work. At those times I lost control of myself altogether and just raved.

"The moment came when I trained the tube on the moon's surface. My motor was purring contentedly and my stabilizer was functioning as smoothly as a nicely balanced stop-watch. The surface of the mercury was perfect. Whirling in the thousands of revolutions a minute, that pool seemed as still as this floor.

"I trained the range-finder on our satellite, started the mechanism which follows the motion of the object observed and keeps the telescope trained and applied my eye to the Huyghenian eye-piece.

"I was looking onto the moon's surface.

"For a long time I gazed, enraptured. One of our great questions had been answered to my satisfaction. Rose, the moon



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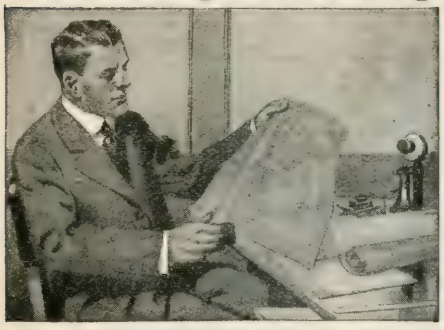

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is devoid of life such as we know it. A few crawling things there are and some sparse vegetation, but no race, no development, nothing like this sphere. But, man, man, *there has been!*

"*There are ruins of cities on the moon.*

"Next I trained the tube on Venus. This planet was poor old Jackson's favorite, and how I wished that he might have been with me at that moment.

"How shall I describe to you what lay before my eyes? The cloudy mist that astronomers notice surrounding the face of that planet will not bother the telescopes of tomorrow.

"And, Rose, those people are centuries ahead of us," his voice sank to a whisper. "Rose, night after night I watched them, night after night I followed them thru the streets of their cities, at their daily tasks, as they assembled in their big open-air auditoriums. They have mastered death up there, Rose. Physical death, I mean, of course, and if we ever come to it, I'll tell you now that the apparent problem of a teeming universe will not be hard.

"And, Rose, there's a 'girl' up there I want. I never had one down here, you know. I only hope that I'll be able to make my way up to her. And somehow, I feel that I will. And my telescope's gone, and I haven't the money to build another, nor the freedom to build it, for that matter. And—"

His voice trailed off into nothing, and he shook himself as a man does who tries to get himself awake. Finally he gained control of himself. He grinned at me sheepishly. "There! Now you know I'm crazy, don't you?" he asked, with a kind of a sob.

I regarded him soberly. "God knows, old man," I replied; "I can't tell you. I don't know what to do. I don't know what to say."

He laughed with forced cheerfulness. "Do? Why, you solemn old goose, what is there to do? Figure out a way to turn me loose, and then have your conscience working overtime for you because of it? Nothing doing. I have no desire to get loose, Rose. If I was out, I'd only try to raise funds to begin the whole business over again, and I've about figured out that the peep I got behind God's veil is about all I'm entitled to this side of Eternity. I'm content to wait until the time comes. So all I ask of you is an occasional smoke. And thanks for the patient listening to my . . ."

The sentence remained unfinished. He suddenly stiffened up as if struck by an apoplectic fit. He reeled and fell heavily over his cot just as I rushed to his assistance. I placed him tenderly upon his bed and tried to revive him. But it was useless. He had died almost instantly.

An autopsy was performed at my suggestion. The physician's report read:

Frederic Mehlman, age 42. Single. Cause of death, cerebral trombosis (blood-clot of the brain).

[THE END.]

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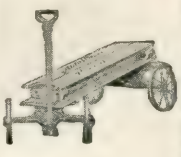

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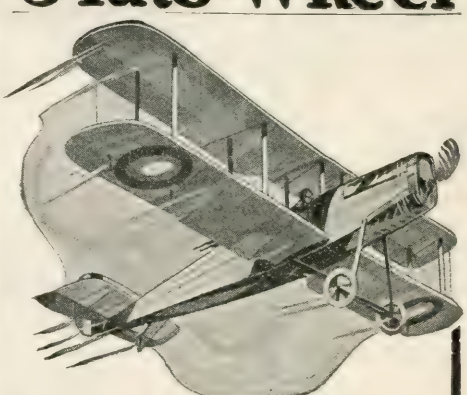

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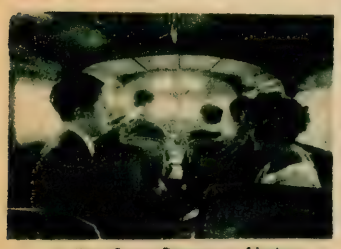

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The Unknown Avenger

By HAROLD F. RICHARDS, PH. D.

(*Continued from page* 483)

forefinger the little notched wheel and applied the blue flame to the heap of papers. The three then warmed their hands over the flame, which leaped briskly in the cold air, while Kelly stood erect in the background, his inscrutable expression giving no indication that he had played a dangerous game—and lost.

When the fire had burned itself out, von Hernholtz motioned Kelly into the gasoline launch, whose nose touched the rock on which the party stood. The three conspirators followed, the engine chugged and soon they had reached the yacht. The launch was hoisted to its place and the great yacht steamed away due north. Kelly judged that they must be fifty miles north of Iceland, when a stop was made in midsea. The launch was lowered again into the water. Von Hernholtz addrest Kelly:

"Will you be kind enough to descend into the launch?"

Kelly, still well trussed up, complied. Resistance was useless. A heavy wooden mast had been securely erected in the center of the open launch. While Lendorff covered Kelly with a revolver, von Hernholtz deftly untied his bonds. Then his left arm was tightly bound to his side, while a heavy leather thong was securely fastened to his right wrist. The thong was then passed thru a pulley fastened to the top of the mast, and Kelly's arm was steadily drawn over his head until his heels left the floor of the boat, so that he was trussed up on tiptoe. The thong was made fast to the top of the short mast, and Kelly remained in this stretched position. He uttered no word. His face bore a look of calm resignation, as of a good poker player who has risked his pile on a single deal and lost. Again von Hernholtz spoke:

"Mr. Kelly, in recognition of your devoted attention we have decided to make you a present of this launch. It is in perfect condition, as you can tell by listening to the smooth purring of the motor. There is an ample supply of fuel, and the automatic feed insures that the engine will require no attention from you. For your further convenience we have equipped the craft with one of the new gyroscopic controllers, so that the boat will follow a straight line without any hand at the wheel. I think that you had better take the course due north, as there will then be no danger of collision with any steamers. The fuel will undoubtedly last for at least fifty miles, so that your excursion will be uninterrupted. I sincerely trust that you meet no icebergs."

"My God, Hernholtz," groaned Kelly, as the full import of their plans forced itself upon his unwilling understanding. "Why can't you shoot me?"

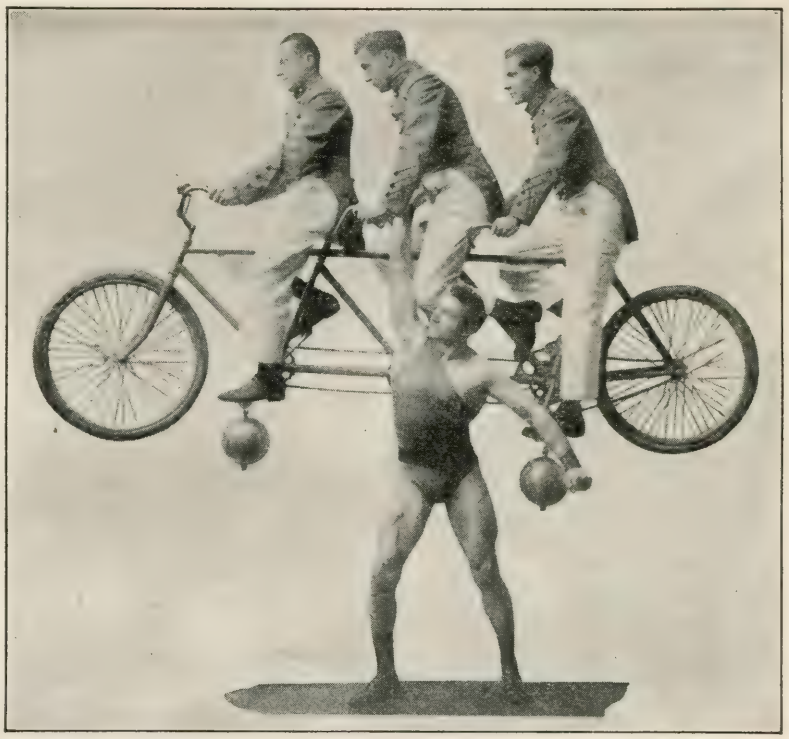
"My dear Kelly, such an action would be extremely indelicate, and furthermore we feel that your distinguished services merit a more worthy reward. We wish you a happy voyage."

Standing on the rope ladder, von Hernholtz pusht with a long staff the clutch of the engine, and the launch darted off with its lone passenger, due north. Von Hernholtz, Lendorff and Madame Elaine Holt lighted each a gold-tipped Egyptienne and puffed calmly as they watched the launch skim over the water with the figure of Kelly, stretched up at the mast, showing plainly against the horizon.

* * * * * *

One year later a group of sinister-faced men in evening clothes were in session in a luxurious office on the twelfth floor of New York's greatest building. The directors of the Murder Syndicate were holding

A Sensational Feat



like the one shown in this picture attracts and amuses theatre goers, but the development and strength of the man who performs the feat are even more interesting than the feat itself. We remember the symmetrical development and strength of the performer long after the feat is forgotten.

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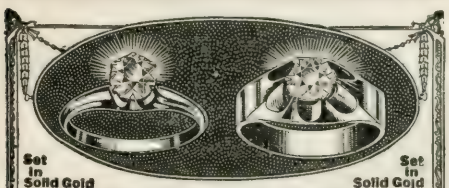

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a midnight meeting. Professor Hopkins rose to address the members and took his place behind a mahogany table which was covered with a strange assortment of apparatus. Batteries, Leyden jars, electroscopes, a huge induction coil and many other pieces of apparatus strewed the table.

"Gentlemen, I feel that the experiments which I am about to perform will open a new era in the art of successful removal. As we have found in the course of our operations last year, this art has not advanced with the other sciences. Of course, electrocution and over-doses of ether are far superior to the methods of the Spanish Inquisitors, who assiduously stuck stubborn victims full of burning matches, yet the slow poison of the ancient Arabs seems still to be as effective as any of the modern methods, so far as immunity from detection is concerned. I firmly believe that the latest discoveries in radiation will furnish methods which will enable us to operate in perfect safety and give us an immense advantage over our competitors. I shall first perform for your benefit some experiments which will reveal the wonderful power of the substance contained within this tiny glass capsule.

"You will note upon the curtain the projected image of the gold leaf of this electroscope. You see that it remains stationary so long as I keep the glass capsule inside this heavy lead box. I raise the lid of the box, and you see the gold leaf collapse instantly, showing that the electrical charge has been removed from the instrument. Will somebody kindly turn off the lights? Thank you. Now note the brilliant flashes of light which this capsule causes on the screen of zinc sulfide. Now I will put this induction coil in operation and draw the spark-points apart until the spark no longer passes. I bring up the capsule and you hear the electric crash produced."

The eight listeners had followed the Professor with close attention, but their faces bore an expression of query, as if they wondered what bearing these experiments could have upon their business. But they watched eagerly as Professor Hopkins placed a guinea pig upon the table.

"You will note," the Professor continued, "that the pig starts back when I bring a lighted match near its eyes. This shows that it is not blind. I will now insert the glass capsule in a pocket in the blinder which I have prepared and place it over the right eye of the animal. In two minutes we will see the result."

The little audience waited tensely until the two minutes had past. The Professor removed the blinder and held a lighted match near the right eye of the pig. The lack of reaction showed that the right eye was blind. An excited murmur ran thru the gathering.

"If you will come to the table and examine the back of this pig you will see that the hair has been removed from a considerable portion of the back, and that in its place there is a deep, red, festering ulcer. That is caused by one day's exposure to this glass capsule."

The Professor placed on the table a glass jar, and withdrew from the alcohol which it contained a grewsome thing, resembling a bladder.

"This, gentlemen, is the stomach of a guinea pig which I caused to swallow the capsule with which I have performed these experiments. The pig died, and if you will examine this stomach you will see that its walls have been perforated by a cancerous lesion. The capsule contains twenty-five thousand dollars' worth of radium, and I think that you can readily see that with this intensely powerful agent we are now in position to proceed with many of those delicate commissions which our patrons have placed in our files. And remember, please, that this radium leaves no trace, so that foul play will never be even suspected. We can operate in perfect safety."

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One of the auditors walked slowly to the front of the room and faced the members of the Murder Syndicate. His face was dead white and seamed with deep lines that appeared to be the tracks of an experience too harrowing to relate. He held up the handless stump of his right arm and requested attention.

"Gentlemen," he began, "one year ago I joined this syndicate. You will remember in what condition you first saw me. You have never heard how it happened. One day I was turned adrift in the ocean north of Iceland and left to starve or freeze, whichever might come first to relieve my sufferings. It does not matter now that a steamer out of its course finally rescued me from the launch in which I was prisoner with my right hand stretched up for days, lashed to a wooden post. Ever since that terrible experience my single purpose has been to take a suitable revenge upon the three who sent me to those indescribable sufferings. For a year I have watched the operations of this company, but not until hearing the revelations of Professor Hopkins this evening have I felt that the time was ripe to take my just revenge. You have often told me how greatly you value my services. Gentlemen, I ask permission to use the resources of this company to avenge my sufferings and the loss of my right hand."

As one man the strange company rose to give assent.

Kelly and Professor Hopkins were very busy for the whole of the following week. While Kelly was absent upon certain errands in which his experience in the Secret Service was of great assistance, the Professor worked diligently in his laboratory. Madame Elaine Holt was delighted with the veil which an unknown friend sent her by mail, and constantly wore it gracefully drooping from her hat, so as to cover only the upper half of her face, in the style so popular among New York's beauties. The eminent scholar Lendorff was much irritated to be unable for a whole day to find his huge, horn-rimmed spectacles, but resumed work upon his beloved manuscripts the following day, when he found the glasses in the pocket of an unused coat. Von Hernholtz continued to increase the huge fortune which he was amassing as head of a great steel factory.

Two months after Hopkins and Kelly had been so busily engaged in the laboratory, a note, signed with the peculiar mark which agents of the German government obey so implicitly, brought together in a room of a New York hotel the three valued servants of Germany. While they sat discussing what matter there was now to be attended to, the door opened and a distinguished looking man entered, accompanied by a haggard man whose right hand was missing. The three sprang to their feet as the latter quietly locked the door, but resumed their seats when Kelly covered them with an automatic. Kelly addrest himself to his companion:

"My dear Professor, do you remember the story of the man who was sent into the northern seas with his right hand lashed to the top of a mast? I see you do. Sit down there, Hernholtz; you seem to be troubled. What, my dear Professor, do you think should be done to the heartless criminals who could treat a man in such a manner?"

The Professor smiled and waited for Kelly to proceed.

"My dear Madame Holt, would you mind raising that heavy veil? By the way, how long have you been wearing such a heavy veil? Really, it hides your astonishing beauty. Please accommodate me by lifting it. You seem to be reluctant. I should not like to be forced to use this."

Kelly toyed with the pistol and Madame Elaine Holt, the celebrated beauty, raised the heavy veil.

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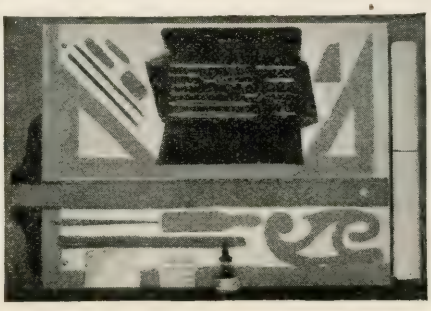

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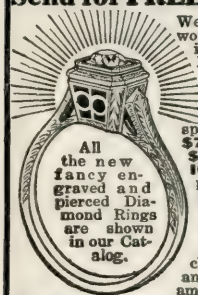

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"Truly, Madame Holt, it is too bad that your countenance is becoming so severely lined. Would you mind stepping forward, so that the Professor can examine your beauty more closely?"

With an air of haughty dignity Madame obeyed the injunction.

"Professor, do you notice that heavy red line which extends from ear to ear across cheeks and nose of the dear Madame? It seems to be a sort of cancer. It is a shame that her beauty should be thus ruined. Professor, is there any cure for such a cancer? None at all? Well, really, that is most unfortunate."

Then he continued, addressing his remarks to Madame Holt:

"My dear Madame Holt, all the time during the last two months that you have been visiting your physician regarding that strange ever-growing line across your cheeks you have been wearing that pretty veil which just covered the half of your face. I thought you would like it. It was a very valuable veil, too. Cost me twenty thousand dollars. It had a hemful of radium. Don't know where it is now, do you? I really hated to take it away, but you know we had to recover the radium. Here it is, if you want it for a souvenir. You will notice that the hem has been cut off. We needed that."

During the strange monologue of Kelly, Madame Holt had listened with an expression which gradually changed from one of defiant disinterestedness to one of amazement. As his final words brought to her a full realization of what had been done, a frightful grimace of horror and rage distorted her countenance, now so sadly disfigured with the radio-ulcer extending from ear to ear, and she shrieked an hysterical cry of rage. Suddenly she sprang at Kelly, clutching with tense fingers at his eyeballs, but he placed the muzzle of his automatic against her breast and she stopt, sinking to the floor with hysterical sobbings. Kelly smiled grimly and remarked to Professor Hopkins:

"Too bad that Madame will have to wear a heavy veil all her life. New York's gatherings will regret the loss of one of their loveliest women."

The scholar Lendorff had been strangely restless while Kelly had been talking to Madame Holt. Kelly now addrest his remarks to him:

"I hear that you can't read any more, Lendorff. That's too bad. It really is a great affliction to lose one's sight. By the way, did you get your glasses back? I had to take them the other day in order to recover a few thousand dollars' worth of radium, which was in the rims. You know, you really shouldn't have worn them at all after the day you thought you had lost them. Radium rays have a very harmful effect upon the optic nerve. Isn't that so, Professor?"

Lendorff said not a word, but tears rolled from his unseeing eyes. He sat humped over in his chair, a picture of abject despair.

"What are you thinking about, Lendorff?" inquired Kelly, pleasantly. "A cruise thru the northern seas on a launch with an automatic feed and a gyroscopic steering control? Well, that will be a pleasant way to pass your time, now that you can't read."

Thruout the whole conversation or rather monologue von Hernholtz had sat nervously in his chair, looking momentarily as if he would spring upon Kelly, and upon his face grew a look of horror and apprehension, as he listened to the fate which had befallen his comrades in crime and wondered what was in store for him.

"What are you so nervous about, Hernholtz? Stomach isn't bothering you, is it? What, have I hit it right? I'm afraid those pink pills that you've been taking haven't done you much good. Remember that one, a little larger than the others, that you

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swallowed about two months ago?"

Von Hernholtz started and stared at his tormentor with a look of agonized apprehension. He leaned forward, as if the better to catch the words upon which he hung.

"I'll tell you how that pill was made, Hernholtz. The Professor and I took a little glass capsule, the size of a pea, and then adjusted an oxyhydrogen flame to a tiny point. With this we melted the glass in several spots, and really we manipulated the flame very cleverly, so that the melted glass, starting to run, hardened into little sharp points. The capsule became covered with short, sharp curved projections, like hooks for goldfish. Then we carefully broke off all of these hooks and fastened them back on with a cement that dissolves in forty-eight hours. You see, we really went to a great deal of trouble on your account."

Von Hernholtz groaned again, with the direst forebodings of evil. Lendorff was crumpled in his seat, sobbing softly, while Madame Holt still lay on the floor, no longer crying hysterically, but in a half-dazed manner running her delicate fingers over and over the long red line deeply engraved in the soft flesh of her once-beautiful face.

"Then," continued Kelly in the same even voice, "we covered the whole capsule with a smooth coating of gelatine that dissolves in lukewarm water in one minute. That was to allow the capsule with its hooks to slip easily down your throat.

Von Hernholtz's eyes were starting from their sockets.

"You can readily see, Hernholtz, what would happen. As soon as the outer coating of gelatine dissolved, the tiny hooks fastened the capsule securely to the nice, soft, pink lining of your stomach. There it remained until the cement holding the hooks dissolved; that is, for about two days, and then the capsule past on with the food. Oh, I nearly forgot to mention that the capsule contained about twenty thousand dollars' worth of radium. You see how deeply interested we were in your stomach. Don't you think that that was a very clever way to obtain a localized source of murderous rays? Really, the Professor and I were immensely pleased with our ingenuity. I believe that the stomach cancer with which you are now suffering will last about two months—and by a strange coincidence you will last about the same length of time. Don't you think so, Professor?"

Professor Hopkins nodded assent, but Kelly was busy covering von Hernholtz with his revolver. The latter had sprung to his feet with a roar like that of a hamstrung elephant, but half way to Kelly he had collapsed to the floor in a dead faint.

"These cancerous patients can't stand much excitement, can they, Professor?" remarked Kelly, softly.

Together the two walked to the door. As they left they turned for one last look at the suffering criminals. Von Hernholtz had immediately come out of his faint and knelt on the floor, groaning miserably. Lendorff was silent, hunched over in his chair with one hand covering his eyes. The once-beautiful Madame Elaine Holt was still lying prostrate on the floor, her fingers mechanically tracing and retracing the deep red furrow which ran unbroken across the soft pink velvet of her cheeks.

[THE END]

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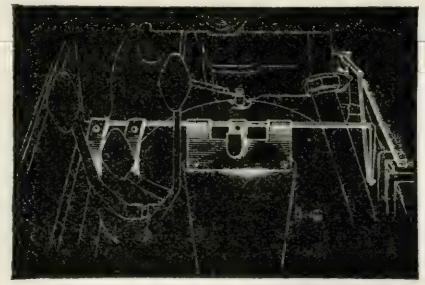

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The Romance of Tungsten

By E. W. DAVIDSON

(*Continued from page* 492)

He was the first man to find a way to "work" this most brittle of metals. He made it *ductile* and thereby hangs this tale.

For about 100 years tungsten had been known before it was put to any use whatever, even as a mere alloy. Its presence was first noticed by Scheele and Bergman in 1781. They found traces of it in a metal called scheelite and coined the name "tungsten" for it from the Swedish "tung" meaning weighty and "sten" for stone. In 1783 three Spaniards discovered tungsten in the mineral Wolfram. To this day there is little tungsten taken from any other minerals. It is found in small quantities in Cumberland, England; Limoges, France; and in parts of Connecticut and North Carolina, but most of it comes from Colorado, and China.

Extracted from these minerals and pulverized, tungsten was found useful in certain steel alloys. Mixed with an adhesive it was made into lamp filaments that were efficient but exceedingly fragile. However no metallurgist was able to discover a way to work pure tungsten. This was because in pure metallic form *it is absolutely brittle!* It confounded all experts with its utter intractability. The establisht processes in working other metals proved useless with tungsten.

Perhaps it was this very thing which finally brought about the harnessing of this valuable metal. Dr. Coolidge with the instinct of the true scientist pioneering in untrodden fields, tried ways that any metallurgist would have thought an idle waste of time. The result was that after long effort and many failures he finally made tungsten ductile and workable so that it could even be drawn like wire down almost to the gossamer fineness of spider's web and still be strong enough to permit its winding and curling into almost any shape. When he had done that he had conquered tungsten and made possible many devices which could never have been built without ductile tungsten.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TUNGSTEN AND OTHER METALS.

The radical difference in workability between tungsten and normally ductile metals the difference which nonplust the scientific world for more than a century may be explained thus:

Pure tungsten prest into bars is brittle after the very treatment which makes other metals most ductile. It differs from all other ductile metals in that when composed of grains it is extremely brittle at "room temperature," but is ductile at this temperature when fibrous.

Many an experimenter had sought to work tungsten mechanically. But none had ever succeeded in getting this intractable metal into a form suitable for mechanical working. Moissan, by an electric furnace method, obtained tungsten in a porous condition which could be slightly comprest and the pores closed up by hammering when hot. However nobody in the world suspected at that time that if tungsten could be obtained and put into suitable condition and then mechanically worked at suitable temperature, its inherently brittle nature would gradually disappear. But nobody knew how even to make a start upon the problem of working tungsten.

To make any ordinary metal soft it is heated above its annealing point and then cooled down to room temperature. *Doing this to tungsten however left it as brittle as ever!*

Violating all metallurgical rules and working for years with utmost patience, Coolidge discovered the astonishing fact that the only way to make tungsten ductile was to mash tungsten's grains out into fibrosity and thus make the metal ductile cold, and this he did by first heating it to a degree *below* its annealing point and then mechanically working it with infinite pains at a variety of heats, each cooler than the one before, until the metal got down to room temperature. A similar treatment, if applied to ordinary metals would destroy their ductility.

He worked out a process which, if followed without the slightest deviation, stretched the grains out, thus attaining ductility. But if the working varied from his process, failure resulted. The tungsten would smash to flinders at a stroke when it got cold.

This elaborate and delicately measured system of working tungsten is a scientific triumph. Thus was tungsten finally made ductile.

TUNGSTEN FOR LAMP FILAMENTS.

The greatest immediate use for it was in the making of electric lamp filaments. Previously the best filament was made of fine tungsten powder, mixed with a binder into a plastic mass which was squirted thru fine dies to produce fragile "wire."

This was an enormous improvement over the old-style carbon filament, thanks to the facts that tungsten, with a melting point of 3,350 degrees Centigrade will stand more heat than other metals and its vapor tension is so low that even under tremendous heats its volatile decomposition is slow. Tungsten even in this form made so good a lamp that it saved the American public a billion dollars a year on its electric light bill.

But filaments of those days could not withstand the slightest jar during the process of manufacture. They necessarily could not be strongly mounted in lamps.

Pure tungsten on the other hand drawn into filaments can stand almost anything. For one thing it is heavier than any other metal. Whereas wrought iron weighs 490 pounds per cubic foot, and lead 708 pounds, tungsten tips the beam at 1,193 pounds. Its tensile strength is startingly high. After it has been worked down to drawn wire of about a thousandth of an inch diameter, its tensile strength is no less than 600,000 pounds per square inch of cross-section. This is greater than the best piano wire!

To use tungsten in lamp manufacture, it is dried, mixed with thorium nitrate solution and then thinned with water into a batter. This is dried and heated at 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit for an hour in a silica or fire clay crucible to agglomerate the fine particles into coarser ones. This mixture is reduced by hydrogen at 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit into tungsten metal powder.

The reduced tungsten powder is poured into a steel mold which is a slab whose face bears a groove a quarter of an inch wide and deep. Under hydraulic pressure of 16 tons per square inch this groove full of powder is pressed into an ingot 16 by ¼ by ¼ inches. The pressure has been exerted on the sides of this ingot not the ends. The ingot at this stage is too fragile to handle.

The slug next goes into an electric furnace where it is baked at about 2,400 degrees Fahrenheit. Now it is strong enough to handle. It is then sintered in a hydrogen atmosphere the bar being heated for 10 to 15 minutes to about 5,000° Fahrenheit by the passage of an electric current thru it.

The bar tho brittle when cold is ready to be worked. It is heated to about 2,800 degrees Fahrenheit, and past thru the revolving dies of a swaging hammer which reduce its size and produces it in rods grow-

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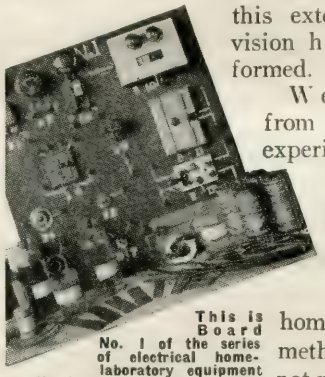

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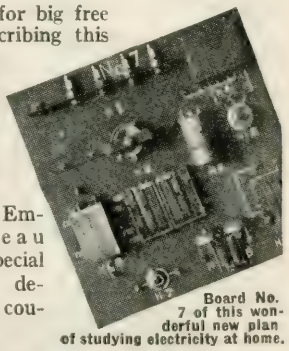

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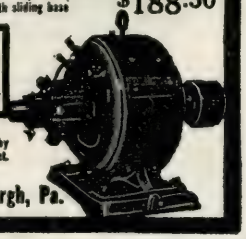

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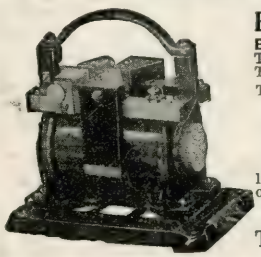

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ing smaller and smaller and necessarily longer and longer as the metal goes thru one swaging after another, until it gets down to a diameter of three hundredths of an inch. It is now a metal that is ductile and its strength has increased with leaps and bounds so that at a diameter of three hundredths of an inch it can stand a pull in the proportion of 215,000 pounds per square inch of its diameter!

But it is still too large for lamp filaments tho wound on drums it appears hardly coarser than linen thread. So it starts into the process of being drawn down by successive stages thru diamond dies of smaller and smaller sizes, to any degree of fineness needed. On the drawing machines it unwinds from the feeding spool, passes thru a lubricant, runs thru a small gas furnace to attain red heat, negotiates the infinitesimal "eye" in the fragment of diamond clamped in its course, and is wound on a *receiving spool* ready for use.

Various of these fine sizes of tungsten wire are used for lamps over a wide range of powers, the finest of them all being used for the tiniest of lamps such as "bug-lights" on automobiles and in flashlights. The diameter of this is 0.004 of an inch. *It is six times finer than human hair.* The original prest ingot 16 inches long would produce more than 250 miles of such wire!

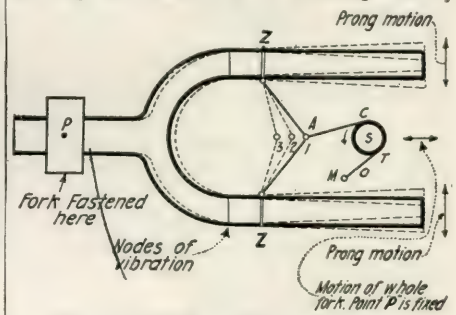
The "Vibro Whip"

By O. C. ROOS

(*Continued from page* 509)

It is not difficult to get proper speeds for phonographs by the use of this apparatus and by fastening the driving bands near the nodes of the fork the speed is reduced but the torque is increased and the "slip" is reduced.

Fig. 5 shows one electrical method of driving the fork. It is self-explanatory.



Z Z- Movable points of attachment of driving belt which moves point A from 1-3 as fork vibrates.

Fig. 4

Fig. 4—This Shows One of the Developments of the Vibro Whip Motor Principle—the Belt Around the Shaft "S" Being Given Alternating Pulls of the Desired Magnitude by the Two Prongs of a Tuning Fork, the Fork Being Electrically Driven.

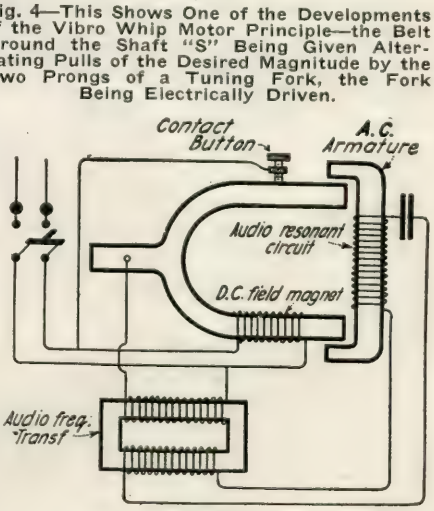


Fig. 5

Fig. 5—This Shows an Electrical Scheme For Driving the Tuning Fork of a Vibro Whip Motor, Which Is Self-Explanatory.

Synthetic Ammonia

By LUCIEN FOURNIER

(*Continued from page* 493)

Upon the pressure and temperature depends the *speed of reaction.* Also from the speed of reaction depends equally the product of ammonia. By operating, at a temperature of 600 deg. C., uniformly maintained, it is possible at the cost of 100 cubic meters of gas mixture for each quart of catalyzer in one hour, to obtain the combination of 40% of gaseous mixture. This figure corresponds to the production of 6 kilograms of ammonia per hour and per kilogram of catalyzer. On the other hand the *Badische Anilin* process obtains but 500 grams of ammonia under similar conditions with a pressure of 200 atmospheres. These 500 grams correspond to the liquefaction of 10% to 12% of the mixture sent to the catalyzer. From this it is evident that in order to secure the combination of a total mixture of nitrogen and hydrogen, it is essential to return the remainder of the 88% or 90% gas thru the circulating system or to install from 8 to 10 catalyzer elements in series one after the other. On the other hand Georges Claude with his arrangement, states that 40% necessitates but 2 or 3 elements in order to terminate the total combination.

DETAILS OF THE PROCESS.

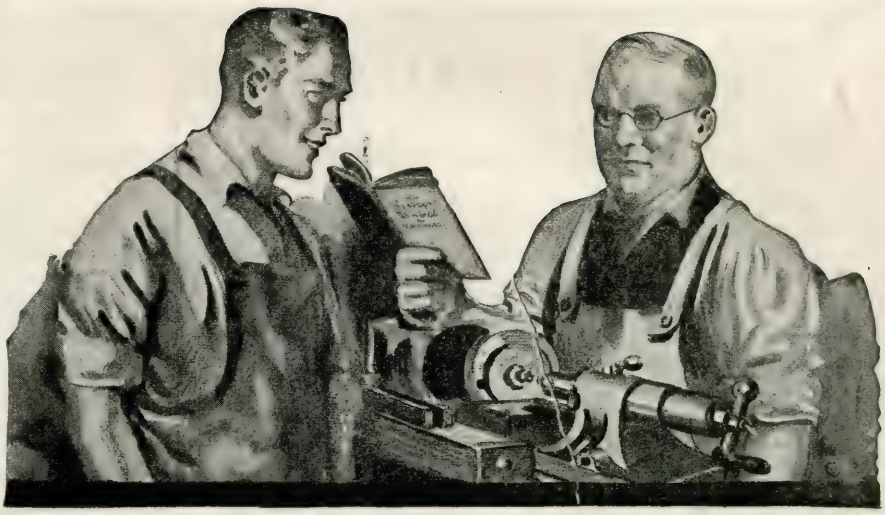
By studying the accompanying schematic diagram it is a simple matter to follow and understand the process which produces synthetic ammonia by the Georges Claude method. Nitrogen and hydrogen are first introduced into an initial compressor represented by A, from which it is led to a second compressor, B, where the mixture is directed to the super-compressor C, which further sends it to a purifier D, placed at the bottom of a specially prepared well or pit and next to the tanks containing the catalyzers. The purifier cleans the mixture of all trace of oxygen and then passes it on to the catalyzer where is effected the combination that we have already explained under the double action of the pressure of 1000 atmospheres and a temperature of 600 degrees.

The ammonia vapors are then past thru the serpentine coils of a refrigerator and thus cooled by a simple circulation of cold water. (In the *Badische Anilin* process the temperature necessary for this cooling process must be 40 degrees below zero). After this point the liquid ammonia passes thru a closed gage and thence to a distributing system where it is bottled in large stone jugs.

The remaining 60% of uncombined gas is taken up at a certain section of the gage and directed into a second catalyzer element I, where 40% of this quantity is again transformed into ammonia and condensed thru a second condenser K. As previously mentioned the ammonia escapes to L, and the remaining 20% of the mixture can be returned to the compressor A or be forced to pass thru the cycle of a third catalyzer element.

Thus we have the general explanation of the system entailing the actual problem concerning the synthesis of ammonia as it is accomplished by Georges Claude and by the *Badische Anilin Werke.*

In conclusion we may add that French science has considerably increased the transformation of ammonia not thru the form of sulfate of ammonia, but thru that of *chlorhydrate of ammonia,* which can be obtained in a much more economical manner than the former by the simple process of utilizing the chlorine lost in the soda industry by the Solvay process.



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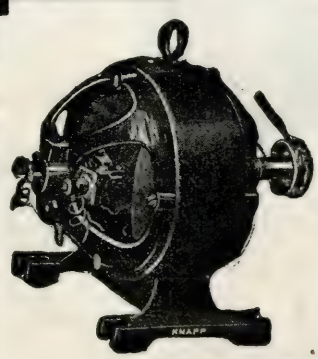

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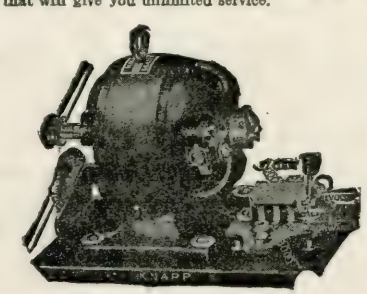

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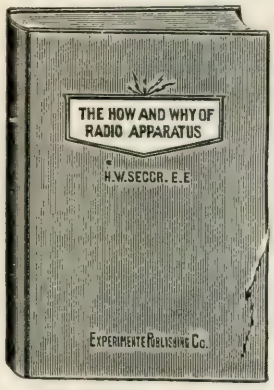

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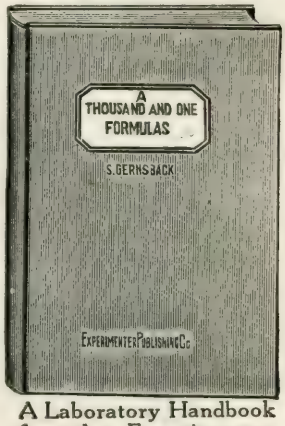

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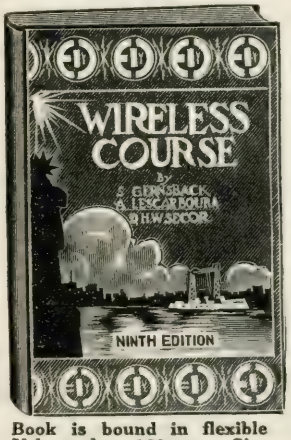

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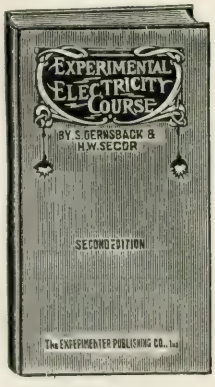

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Archimedes—The World's First Great Inventor

(*Continued from page* 480)

Astronomy. Compared to the present knowledge of the heavenly bodies, but precious little was known in those days. However, it redounds to the credit of this master genius and inventor of antiquity that he at least produced several instruments for demonstrating and measuring a number of astronomical quantities, such as the angle of the sun and other heavenly bodies with relation to the earth; the apparent diameter of the sun, etc., and the angles subtended by them at the eye, and he also produced a marvelous instrument in the form of a sphere, or rather several spheres, operated by water power, which was so constructed as to duplicate the motions of the sun, the earth, the moon and five planets then known of the heavens.

Cicero actually saw this contrivance and has provided a brief description of it, stating that it demonstrated the motion of the moon and the apparent motion of the sun with such accuracy that it would show the eclipse of both the sun and moon. It was said by Macrobius that Archimedes discovered the distance of the planets, and in the sand-reckoner apparatus Archimedes himself describes the apparatus by which he measured the apparent diameter of the sun, or the angle subtended by it at the eye.

DEATH OF ARCHIMEDES.

Finally, after leading a life of the highest scientific endeavor and having contributed some of the first and most important mathematical and scientific literature in the history of the world, he came to a sudden end. History tells us that the life of the world's first inventor ended when the Romans captured Syracuse; and that he died as he had lived—intensely absorbed in mathematical contemplation. It is stated by Livy that, following the capture of Syracuse, Archimedes was found intent on some figures which he had drawn in the sand, and when he did not answer his questions he was instantly killed by a Roman soldier, who did not know who the master was.

According to history, it is said that Archimedes had requested his friends and relatives to place upon his tomb a monument in the form of a cylinder circumscribing a sphere within it, and bearing the inscription giving the ratio which the cylinder bore to the sphere. From this we may infer that Archimedes himself probably regarded the discovery of this ratio as his single greatest achievement.

When Cicero was quaestor in Sicily (in the year 75 B. C.), he found the tomb of Archimedes near the Agrigentine Gate overgrown with thorns and briers. "Thus," says Cicero, "would this most famous and once learned city of Greece have remained a stranger to the tomb of one of its most ingenious citizens had it not been discovered by a man of Arpinum."

It is to be regretted that we do not have a better and more complete history of the life and of the works and inventions of the Great Archimedes, but, altho some of his useful and important works may have perished, it is quite probable that these cover mostly details of his various mathematical and practical devices; and it is thought that all of his most valuable mechanical discoveries have been preserved down thru the ages.

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"Movie" Camera Copies Books and Legal Papers

(*Continued from page* 540)

lamp while we compare notes. There are miniature spotlights at your elbows on each chair for *note reading* during the projection of the exposures. If you want the first two pages again we can have them instantly. In this way we can study all the work simultaneously, instead of successively, and save valuable time." (The four work for an hour, doing everything that two men, with craned heads and cricks in their necks, not to mention a mounting irritation in their hearts, would have done at 10 per cent efficiency, at the public library in one-half day. They are all relaxed bodily, but alert mentally and away from the maddening and unwashed crowd.)

* * *

The above is not pure imagination, but is based on actual apparatus on the market, in 1920, which, with a little modification and a real service system, combined with a wide-awake propaganda, can be made into a revenue-producing *service bureau.* Such a bureau would supply homes and societies with direct copies of sketches, views, colored or uncolored, of rare or *out-of-print* objects, documents, clippings, etc., in the first place. Second, a résumé service would furnish valuable material accumulated during a business deal by technical men, or in the case of students, during the college term. In the latter case at least 25 per cent of the students disarrange or lose their notes. For "quizz" and "cram" work, or for just plain review lecture, its advantages need not be dwelt upon further.

Third, prevent the rush in libraries for really important patent evidence by putting on the market at 48 hours' notice *any out-of-print* patents.

Fourth, would flatter authors of rare and privately circulated books by multiplying their circulation tenfold. It is necessary today to take the Touriscope, Movette, Pathéscope, Aminatograph, or other apparatus using film instead of glass slides and adapt it in a special manner for rapid step-by-step photo and projecting work with small clichés, 20 by 16 millimeters. The large size has no particular advantages for this kind of work, at least on documentary comparisons.

When one witnesses the fact that six seconds, and this is A1 service today, are necessary for a single photostat copy, costing 20 cents to 40 cents a page, and mentally compares it with the above outlined possibilities, it brings a picture of very attractive future developments to the mind in the way of improvements inevitably on their way to accomplishment.

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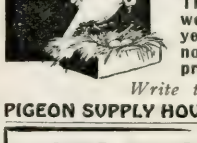

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Should advice be desired by mail a nominal charge of $1.00 is made for each question. Sketches and descriptions must be clear and explicit. Only one side of sheet should be written on.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

We receive from thirty to fifty letters requesting advice on patents every month. Due to lack of space, even tho condensing this department into the smallest type, we can only publish from eight to ten letters, with their answers, monthly. Obviously we are falling back further and further, and it looks as tho we will never be able to publish all the requests.

For this reason we would urge correspondents to avail themselves of our special service, as outlined above. In that case an immediate answer will be assured.

EDITOR.

PHONOGRAPH.

(405) Roy M. Weaver, Ashtabula, Ohio, says:

Enclosed is a diagram of an idea which came into my mind when trying to regulate the volume of the sound on our phonograph which now has no way of doing it.

The idea is to have a sort of damper, such as you would find in a stove pipe. E is that part of the arm which fastens to the sounding box. D is the movable arm.

B is the damper or shut off. A is a small knob for turning the shut off. C is the shaft which has on that end a washer and lock nuts. F is a spring used for holding the shut off from jarring. When the shut off is open it will set as shown in the drawing. When closed it will be flat side up and thus shut off the sound.

A. There are four or five phonographs on the market at the present day incorporating the same idea which you suggest. One phonograph having practically the same identical thing suggested in your letter.

Another company, the Aeolian Co., making one having a flexible cable leading to the damper, by means of which the intensity of the sound can be regulated eight to ten feet away from the instrument itself.

The device itself is by no means new, and we do not believe that you could obtain the patent on the same.

DRAWING PAPER.

(406) Lewis H. Phillips, Highlands, N. J., writes:

I am greatly interested in the department, "Patent Advice," and below describe a new kind of drawing paper on which I would like to have your advice as to its patentability.

The average drawing paper has a plain edge. If a draftsman wishes to draw a straight line down the centre, he must first measure in from the edges. Now, with a busy draftsman, time is quite valuable. My suggestion is—have the ends and edges divided into inches and fractions of inches. Now, for instance, a draftsman wishes to draw a parallel line three inches from the edge. Instead of measuring from the edge all he has to do is to set his T square on the 3 inches and draw. Therefore you can readily see that if this idea is patentable it would be a great timesaver.

A. Your idea is a good one and really practical. Whether or not a patent would be granted on the same is hard to say, as ruled paper of all kinds have been patented and patents on the same have long expired.

Thus, square paper marked off in inches at both ends and ruled with light yellow rulings needs but to have a plain ruler in order to get squares and other lines either at right angles to each other or on the oblique of 45 degrees. We believe it would pay, however, to have a search conducted.

BILLIARD CHALK.

(407) H. A. Griffin, Akron, Ohio, says:

In poolrooms and clubs, etc., where billiard and pool tables are, I have noticed that chalk can never be found readily and when it is finally found oftentimes it is on the floor in a crushed condition. My idea is to have a little chalker to be either placed on the ceiling or it can be placed on the wall at about a 30° angle with same. Now, the shaft or plunger which turns the chalk is simply the same thing as you see in these screwdrivers that turn upon being pushed; the spring pushes the chalk down again after it has reached the extent of its travel. The chalk which is to be used must be round and the little clips that hold the chalk work eccentric, and the edges that bear in the chalk are sharp. All the dust that falls off the chalk drops to the bottom and this can be removed when new chalk is put in. This is a feature that makes for cleanliness of both the floor and your self and would be appreciated in the private home.

A. Altho your idea seems very feasible and practical, we do not believe that the exploitation of the same would net a material income for the simple reason that the cost of manufacture would be greatly prohibitive when other similar devices now on the market are taken into consideration.

One device which we refer to consists of a little holder into which the chalk is inserted. This holder is suspended from the ceiling by a little-reel-like mechanism so that when the chalk is released the reel rolls up again replacing the chalk to its former suspended position. The advantage of this device is that the individual can move about the table still holding on to the chalk, which obviously in your case he could not do.

In addition, a pool player likes to wiggle the chalk around on the end of the cue, another feature which your device would not permit. In this manner perfect chalking of the edge at the end of the cue is insured in the regular way presently in use, whereas your device would not permit this.

Thirdly, we do not see how your device would prevent the chalk from falling to the floor if the same were screwed into a low ceiling, as all cues are not the same size, and the opening in funnel end would have to be large enough to accommodate the thickest cue and when a thin cue was placed into the opening the chalk would nevertheless fall to the floor.

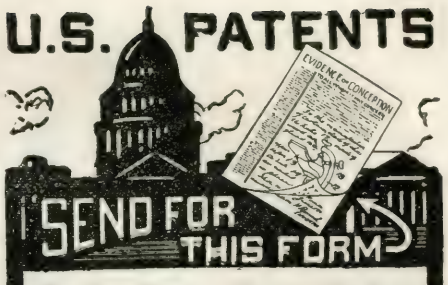
The inserting of the chalk is likewise quite bothersome, making it impractical for poolroom use as invariably something is desired which is instantaneous in its action. Because of these reasons we would not advise a patent on this device.

STAIR MOTOR.

(408) Ernest M. Fletcher, Montreal P. O., writes:

I have always thought that it was almost impossible to get something for nothing; today I read three articles in one of the ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTERS on that old gag, "perpetual motion"; a thought came to me. Why not make use of the stairs that are climbed by so many people—make

U.S. PATENTS



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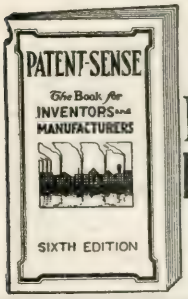

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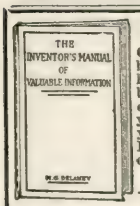

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them do a little useful work besides getting to the top or bottom. Get something out of them for nothing.

Enclosed is a rough sketch which will give you my idea.

Take four steps for an example. Each step can sink one inch but is returned to its original position by springs supporting it after the weight is released. As the step No. 1 sings it pushes on a lever. This works a ratchet which turns a shaft geared to a motor which supplies the battery with current. Likewise the same on the other steps.

So we have, if a person of 144 pounds weight ascends

$$\text{Step 1} = \frac{144}{12} \times 8 = 96 \text{ ft. lbs.}$$

$$\text{Step 2} = \frac{144}{12} \times 6 = 72 \text{ ft. lbs.}$$

$$\text{Step 3} = \frac{144}{12} \times 4 = 48 \text{ ft. lbs.}$$

$$\text{Step 4} = \frac{144}{12} \times 2 = 24 \text{ ft. lbs.}$$

$$240 \text{ ft. lbs.}$$

If 500 people went up the steps in a day, making the return trip, that would make $240 \times 500 \times 2 = 240{,}000$ ft. lbs, representing practically 8 H. P.

If more steps were connected up to other levels, say, only 20 steps in all, that would mean 40 H. P.

40 *H. P. for nothing* on a small scale all gone into the batteries. Could be used to advantage. What do you think?

A. In the December (1916) issue this magazine issued a *"phoney patent"* on the self-same device which you have just described. The idea is quite clever, but we would ask you whether you would like to travel up 40 steps ten times a day, making 400 steps. Then again, each of these steps would carry your weight downward two inches, making you climb a total of 800 inches more than necessary. If each step were 8 inches high, you have climbed 100 more steps than you would otherwise, and if you knew that someone also were deriving power by you having expended 100 steps more per day, like the old treadmills, we are quite sure you and everyone would object. Outside of this, the up-and-down motion while climbing such stairs would be very fatiguing and extremely annoying.

Here is another scheme similar to yours. In the large department stores we have moving stairways. Why not just put a governor on this stairway and have it on very good rollers so that a person standing upon it would carry the stairway down with his own weight. Of course, it could not run more rapidly than the governor would allow. This device could be coupled to a generator. All this energy could be put into storage batteries to operate other electric motors about the store.

STREET CAR INDICATOR.

(409) L. J. Klink, Valparaiso, Ind., says:

In your opinion would a device that indicates the next stopping place of a street car be worth developing and patenting?

What I have in mind is a sign placed in a conspicuous place in the front of the car telling the block number, street or important establishment (like Union Station) that the car will stop at next. For instance, if you were going south on a Broadway car in St. Louis and wanted to get off at Pine St., after the car started from Olive (the first street north) the sign would indicate "Pine St." You would have a whole block to ring and get to the door.

While living in St. Louis I have noticed much uneasiness among the passengers to know just where they were and when to get off. In fact, I have been "carried by" very often myself. The conductors are supposed to call the name of the street but they seldom do and are not always understood when they do.

Such a device can readily be developed that will always indicate the correct place regardless of the irregularity in the length of the blocks or distances between stops or whether the car passes stops or stops at every corner.

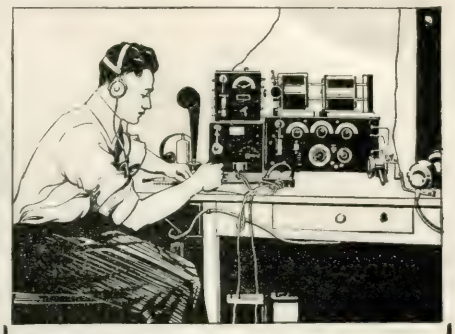
I do not know whether a device of this character was ever placed on the market or not. How could I find out.

Kindly give your opinion as to the commercial aspect of such a device.

A. Your idea is a very old one and several hundred patents have been issued on such devices. If you can overcome the following objections which have been placed upon similar appliances of this nature by the traction car companies, you will have a valuable invention.

The device must not be manually operated, but must be *entirely* automatic. It must not have a trip on the streets or something similar hung beside the overhead conductor or the underground conductor. No changes must be made in present rail installments. It obviously will not work if geared to the wheels, as many times in starting the wheels slip considerably. Rain, snow or sleet must not interfere with the operation of the device.

If your device can live up to the objections just given, we do not see why the same could not be patented and be accepted immediately.



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A Giant Radio Central Station

(*Continued from page* 511)

supported on self-supporting steel towers, each 400 feet in height, with the wires suspended at the top between 150-foot cross arms. Each of the six antennæ will have twelve towers, forming, so to speak, the spokes of a giant wheel fashioned out of seventy-two miniature replicas of the famous Eiffel Tower in France. Five of these antennæ spokes will be used for regular service, while the sixth is reserved for emergency operation.

Far more impressive than physical appearance, however, will be the things the eye cannot encompass. Appreciate, that in the wires forming each spoke of the gigantic wheel there will be generated a power equal to the greatest of present day transoceanic wireless stations; then comprehend, if you can, the fact that all five of these powers can, if desired, be combined into one, for signaling. A telegraphic signal created out of such tremendous electromagnetic energy could encircle the entire globe!

RADIO TELEPHONE AS WELL AS TELEGRAPH.

But that is not all. The apparatus and system which will be installed for each of the five units will be the same as that at present in the New Brunswick (N. J.) station, from which the voice of Secretary of the Navy Daniels was carried to President Wilson when he was at sea aboard the U. S. S. *George Washington.* In a number of experimental tests the voice has been carried by this radio telephone over distances of 2,500 miles from complete success. This leads us to state very definitely that before long a direct wireless telephone service will be established with foreign countries.

The generation of the energy required to span thousands of miles will be effected by Alexanderson alternators, which have made it possible to carry the radio signals thru space by continuous wave trains, instead of by the interrupted or discontinuous waves, generated by systems using the old-time "spark discharge" apparatus. So efficient and reliable has the Alexanderson 200-kilowatt alternator installed at New Brunswick proven itself that leading radio experts of Europe have made special trips of investigation to the United States to view its performance.

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Now this already famous single machine is to be duplicated and installed in the New York Radio Central Station; but this time there will be two 200-kilowatt machines for each transmitting station—ten in all. The achievement, from a radio engineering standpoint, has nothing approaching a parallel; ten alternators, 2000 kilowatts, 3000 horse power—an astounding force to concentrate in realization of a dream to transmit messages over the world to all points of the compass from a single source!

Mr. Nally emphasized another forward step in engineering which will be incorporated in the super station. "We will utilize what is termed a multiple tuned antenna, which," he explained, "materially reduces the wasteful electrical resistance of the long, low, flat-top aerials formerly used. A great saving in power is thus effected; in fact, for the same power input formerly used for a single station, six times the effectiveness at a distance is obtained. In other words, we obtain with this antenna the same effect at a distance with 200 kilowatts input, as would be obtained from the old type of antenna with 1200 kilowatts

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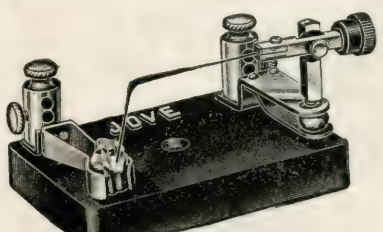

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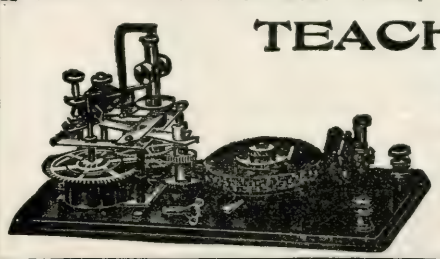

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input! This new type of antenna is the equivalent of six independent radiators, all operating in unison at the same wave length, and for the complete station with its five antennæ units, the power required will be less than 20 per cent of that formerly necessary. The project, however, contemplates additional possibilities. To illustrate: We may, in many cases, utilize but one-half of a single spoke of the antenna system for communication service to a certain point. On this basis, the Long Island Station will ultimately permit simultaneous transmissions to a maximum number of ten points in the world, thus doubling the communication facilities originally planned."

STATIC ELIMINATION.

"The receiving aerials are of a new type, too; they have been designed for operation with the Weagant system of "static" elimination, which, by a combination of opposed electrical circuits, nullifies the long-dreaded effects of atmospheric electricity and makes possible uninterrupted reception from foreign countries under all weather conditions. We break away from precedent once again, in locating our receiving units only eighteen miles from the multiplex transmitting equipment, instead of following the former practise of establishing one transmitter and one receiver in one locality and restricting the service of the circuit to one overseas destination."

Electrical Meals

By JACQUES BOYER

(*Continued from page* 476)

ner. Thus, persons who live a sedentary life, and who consequently accumulate flesh reserves which are not used up, will be made to perform *ergotherapic exercises.* On the other hand, those whose organisms spend more energy than they are able to produce will likewise resort to the diathermic treatment which will electrically furnish them without any effort on their part whatever the required additional energy in the form of heat. To effect a reducing cure according to the Bergonié method is therefore as easy as partaking of his "electricity meal."

JAPAN ERECTING RADIO STATION AT FUKUSHIMA.

The Japanese Government is erecting a powerful wireless station in the prefecture of Fukushima for the purpose of relieving congested communications between that country and the United States. The Emperor has conferred upon John R. Geary, general manager for the General Electric Company at Tokio, the Order of the Rising Sun, Fourth Class, in recognition of his services for the development of Japan's electrical industries.

NEW YORK SUBWAY ASKS FOR ONE-MAN TRAINS.

The Interborough Rapid Transit Company has applied to the Public Service Commission for permission to install the multiple unit door control which the company has been testing for several months.

The device, if installed, will make it possible for one man to operate all of the doors on a subway train, thus greatly reducing the cost of operation. It was described in the April issue of the ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER—Science and Invention. The commission will hold a public hearing on the application next Tuesday. In the meantime the commission's engineers are investigating the device.

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The Original Tubular Vacuum Detector, Amplifier, Oscillator

NOW FREE FROM ALL RESTRICTIONS

AUDIOTRONS, recognized as the most sensitive detectors ever produced, are now licensed under Fleming Patent No. 803684 to be used only for amateur and experimental uses in radio communication. They are no longer limited to audio frequency and can now be used as detectors and oscillators as well as amplifiers.

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Insist on the name AUDIOTRON on every tube you purchase. Fully guaranteed by the AUDIOTRON Mfg. Co. (Read the guaranty).

Your Last Chance To Get An AUDIOTRON *double filament* DETECTOR

Manufacturing reasons make it impossible to continue the present hand made AUDIOTRON.

This type has a double filament of special thorium tungsten and the operating life is over 2,000 hours. No special socket is required. The electrical and mechanical dimensions result in a heavy plate current and corresponding signal strength. Plate voltage under 40.

The few thousand that will still be produced will be of the same standard of excellence that has characterized every AUDIOTRON. Already recognized as the most sensitive detector on the market, these few that still remain, with all restrictions on amateur use lifted, are undoubtedly the greatest opportunity ever offered to amateur radio operators.
See your dealer at once or order direct. Be sure to benefit by this last opportunity to secure a hand made super-sensitive double filament AUDIOTRON Detector, Amplifier, Oscillator.

$6.00 each (no increase in price)

The AUDIOTRON exclusive guarantee

Each and every AUDIOTRON is guaranteed to arrive in good condition and to prove fully satisfactory. Replacement of unsatisfactory tubes will be made free of charge. The only tube satisfactory enough to stand a guarantee.

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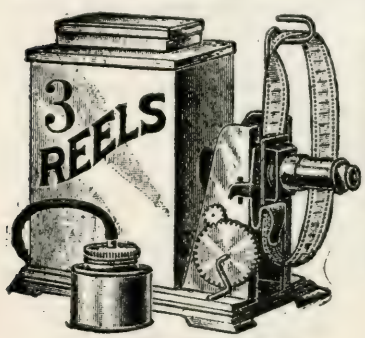
OH BOY. SOME SPORT

Surprise the Bunch—Have a Barrel O' Fun!

OWN A GENUINE MOVING PICTURE MACHINE

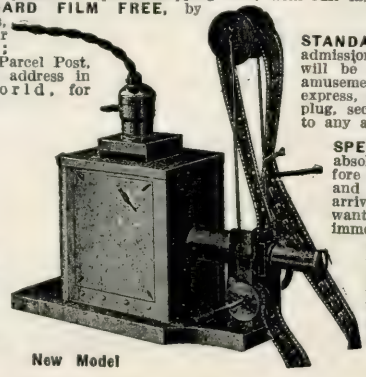
Here's what you've always wanted—a Genuine Moving Picture Machine—a machine that uses **STANDARD FILM**—like the **BIG** theatres show—at a price you can easily afford to pay. This is the **BIG** opportunity—don't **MISS** it. Read every word—then act quick. Several swell models to select from. Each the best of its kind. **ALL REAL** moving picture machines—not toys or magic lanterns—but **REAL MOVIE** Machines, that throw a big, broad, brilliant circle of light on the screen many feet away, and show a picture three to seven feet in width. One or more reels of **REAL FILM** come with each machine **FREE**, and the minute you get your machine you can start right in and give a "bully" exhibition. The "fellers" and girls and the grown ups, too, will sit spellbound, or roar with laughter, at the wonderful, lifelike, real movies you can show them.



Latest Model Cinematograph

Show Real Moving Pictures Like the Big Theatres

The New Model This is a beautiful, high-class Moving Picture Machine. Made of sheet iron with wood base. Finished in black or battleship grey with handsome red stripe trimmings. Solid and substantial construction. Size, 12x7½x5½. Uses **STANDARD FILM** same as the big machines, and throws a **BIG** picture many feet in diameter. **TWO TYPES**—Electric and Gas. The electric machine is equipped with plug and cord, complete. Gas machine has its own generator and makes its own light. The gas machines can be used anywhere and will be sent unless Electric type machine is specially ordered. Remember this and be sure to specify "electric" if you desire this type. Sent securely packed in special shipping case, with full instructions and one **STANDARD FILM FREE**, by express, for $7.50; or by Parcel Post, to any address in the world, for $8.00.



New Model

STANDARD SIZED FILMS, admission tickets—all **FREE**. You can have endless fun and amusement, and **MAKE MONEY** with it. Sent by express, with full instructions and extra long cord and plug, securely packed, for $12.00; or by Parcel Post, to any address in the world, for 75c extra.

SPECIAL. Order from this Ad. Our machines are absolutely as described and thoroly inspected before they are shipped. We guarantee them perfect and complete and all ready to use when they arrive. Make sure of getting the machine you want—order now—from this Ad. We can make immediate delivery now—so order at once, and avoid disappointment. Prices are going up all the time and you may never have a chance like this again to buy a Genuine Moving Picture Machine at the very low prices quoted here. You've always wanted a real Moving Picture Machine. Make sure to get it **NOW.**

BIG BARGAIN OFFER

3 Reels Free Here is an astonishing bargain. Our latest Model Cinematograph is a whirlwind value. At the price it has everything beat you ever heard of. Here is a genuine Moving Picture Machine—made of metal—solidly constructed—and put together by expert workmen—that you can buy at a price that will simply astound you—knock you plumb off your feet. This machine throws a brilliant beam many feet. Comes equipped with a **SAFETY** Carbide Gas Generator, and can be used to show moving pictures anywhere. The mechanism is scientific and simple and can be operated by anyone. This is the greatest value in a Genuine moving picture machine ever offered at the price. Think of it! a genuine moving picture machine—that uses **STANDARD FILM**—by express, charges collect—with 3 **REELS FREE**—for only $3.00; or by Parcel Post to any address in the world for only $3.25!

FILMS All the films you want. Splendid subjects—15c each; Doz., $1.50 (postpaid). Extra long films, 3 for $1.00; Charlie Chaplin films—side-splitters—famous favorites, 25c each. Lantern Slides (least sold)—6 for 75c.

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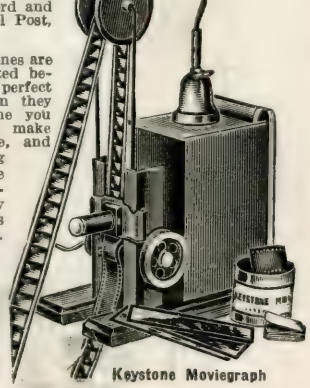
Charlie Chaplin Films—25c each

Keystone Moviegraph

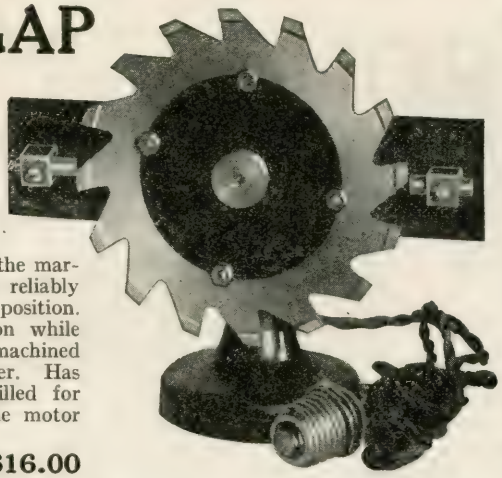
This is our largest and finest machine. A regular beauty and all complete, ready for you to use the minute it arrives. Hang up a sheet, put on a reel, turn the crank, and you're off—that's all there is to it. Nothing to get out of order. Made of metal throughout with heavy base casting. Finely adjusted mechanism, easily operated. Equipped to show slides as well as Real Moving Pictures—just like the big machines. 12x9½x6. Made to operate with electric light **ONLY.** Simply screw in the plug and you are all ready for an exhibit. Comes with **3 EXTRA LONG 3 FINE SLIDES**, and



Keystone Moviegraph

ROTARY GAP

Cat. No. YM1



A new development in the rotary line has been made expressly for Young & McCombs. Improvements on the well known saw tooth rotary wheel, make this gap the equal in tone and efficiency to any selling for twice the money. It is the only gap on the market which will run smoothly and reliably in either a horizontal or vertical position. Can be run in a vertical position while screwed to the wall. Rotor is machined cast aluminum with formica center. Has liberal sparking space and is drilled for either 1-4 or 3-16 shaft. Variable motor speed switch in base.

Price, complete - $16.00

ROTORS ONLY

YM1a—Rotor and standards only.....$7.00
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ROTORS AND STANDARDS

YM2—Plain rotor, as illustrated.....$4.50
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Send 4c in stamps for 50-page Catalog

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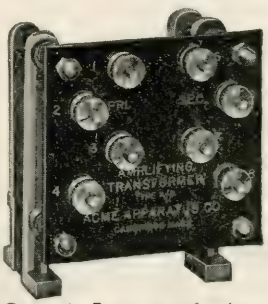

ALL TUBES ARE NOT ALIKE

For successful amplification the impedance of the windings of an *Amplifying Transformer* should equal that of the tube circuits.

Our A-5 type of *Amplifying Transformer* has several ratios of impedance and transformation allowing the operator to use the correct values irrespective of the tube used.

Your dealer can supply you

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To care for our business in the eastern section of the country we are opening a branch at 20 N. Ninth St., Philadelphia, Pa. We are placing a complete stock of radio equipment in this office and will be ready to care for the local and mail order trade with even more dispatch than formerly.

As a special introductory offer with each order of $5.00 or over bearing the postmark of any date in July, we shall give one dozen of binding posts free of charge. These binding posts ordinarily sell for 6c each and are one of our best values.

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Insure your copy reaching you promptly each month. Subscribe to SCIENCE AND INVENTION—$3.00 a Year.

Collision of Earth with Heavenly Bodies

By ISABEL M. LEWIS, M.A.

(*Continued from page* 501)

fraction minutes), or a total of ten thousand tons per square mile, during the period of encounter.

A fall of *five pounds* of meteoric matter per second entering the atmosphere with a velocity of twenty miles per second over each square mile of the earth's surface would supply a quantity of heat equal to that received from the sun over the same surface in the same time. So for a brief period of forty minutes one hemisphere of the earth would receive about eighteen hundred times as much heat from the collision as from the sun!

To get some faint idea of the effects of such an encounter consider the effect of an actual fall of about *one-third of a ton* of meteoric stone at Estherville, Iowa, which occurred May 10, 1879, at 5 P. M. The meteorite, according to the account, was plainly visible in daylight and the sounds produced were louder than those of the largest artillery and were recorded as "terrible and indescribable, terrifying people and scaring cattle over an area of many square miles." There were two explosions attending the fall, one at great height scattering several large fragments over an area of four square miles, and a second close to the ground scattering many small stones. The largest fragment of the fall weighed over four hundred pounds and embedded itself eight feet in stiff clay. In all about 740 pounds of meteoric stone were collected,—mostly in the form of small stones, fragments of a larger mass shattered by explosions.

Needless to say, the effects of a head-on collision of the earth with the head of a comet possessing one hundredth millionth part of the mass of the earth would produce most disastrous results to all life upon the surface of one-half of our planet earth. Instead of a fall of a third of a ton producing such effects as we have mentioned above, there would be a fall of ten thousand tons per square mile in about forty minutes.

Imagine the cannonading of the Great War spread over every square mile of half the earth's surface at *maximum intensity for one hour*, to form an idea of the effects of such a collision!

If the quantity of matter in the nucleus and head of the average comet approaches any such value as one hundred millionth part of the mass of the earth, and if the individual particles average hundreds of pounds in weight, we have reason to be pleased at the thought that the chances of a head-on collision of the earth with the head of a comet is, according to Babinet, *about once in fifteen million years!*

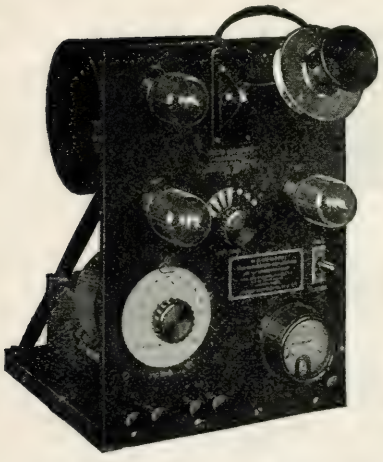
The earth has frequently past directly thru the tail of a comet. At its last apparition we past thru the tail of Halley's comet and no one was any wiser for the fact, yet the difference in density between the nucleus and tail of a comet may be, and probably is, very great.

As a whole, the earth would go on undisturbed by its head-on collision with the head of a comet which has a mass equal to only one hundred millionth part of its own, owing partly to the briefness of the encounter (the effect of the great heat would hardly be felt before it would be over) and partly due to the fact that the mass of the comet, tho imposing enough in *tons*, would be so insignificant *compared to the earth's mass* that it could no more retard the motion of the earth than the firing of a few rifle shots could slow down the speed of a locomotive.

DE FOREST

Announcing

The DeForest Portable Buzzer "Radiophone"*



DeForest Portable "Radiophone" Transmitter Buzzer Type O. T.-5
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Type O. T.—5

THE latest development of the famous DeForest Oscillion Transmitter (Wireless Telephone). For Automobiles, Motor and Sail Boats, Camps, Surveying and Exploring Parties, Forest Patrol, Farms, and all isolated places, this new "Radiophone" Set offers sure, quick, practical word-of-mouth communication. Operates on two 6-volt storage batteries; no "B" battery or other outside source of high potential is required. Can be easily transported; entire Transmitter, including batteries, weighs less than 60 pounds. Range on ordinary Amateur aerial is 5 to 10 miles, and can be materially exceeded under proper conditions. Operates with any suitable type of Receiver and Audion Detector; with or without an Audion Amplifier, depending on the range to be covered and loudness of reception desired.

Price Without Storage Batteries Including Vacuum Tubes **$135.00**

F. O. B. New York

Investigate this new DeForest production now. Order at once to insure early delivery; either thru your regular dealer or direct from us.

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Inventors and Manufacturers of High Grade Radio Apparatus

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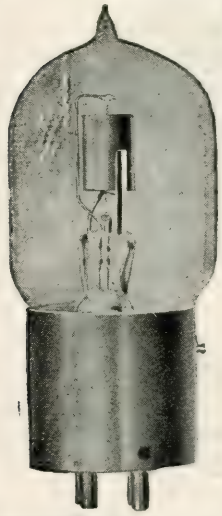
DE FOREST

THIS VT AMPLIFIER - OSCILLATOR

OF ALL VACUUM TUBES HAS THE HIGHEST

AMPLIFICATION CONSTANT



THE AP-VT AMPLIFIER-OSCILLATOR

The A-P Amplifier-Oscillator is the Navy type 3E 1444 "hard" tube, designed and manufactured expressly for amplification and oscillation purposes. Because of its exceptionally high vacuum and correct electrical and mechanical design this tube has the highest amplification constant of any tube known to the radio art. Recent tests by the United States Navy have established this fact. (See April, 1920, Prec. I. R. E.)

Used in conjunction with the A-P VT Amplifier-Oscillator is our A-P Electron Relay, the original tubular vacuum valve brought out by our Laboratories in 1915, but now supplied with the SHAW standard four-prong base for convenience. Of all vacuum tubes the A-P Electron relay is the most efficient spark receptor. A combination of two or more VT tubes as amplifiers with an Electron Relay as the initial detector is the *ideal receiving combination* for long distance amateur or long wave reception. In ordering ask for—

THE A-P PERFECT VACUUM TUBE COMBINATION

DEALERS *Write for prices and particulars.*

The A-P Electron Relay — price $6.00 each
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The A-P VT Amplifier Oscillator—price $7.00 each.
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AMATEURS *Write for descriptive literature*

These tubes were manufactured under the DeForest Audion and Fleming Patents

ATLANTIC RADIO SUPPLIES CO., KIRK PLACE, NEWARK, N. J., Phone, Market 1575
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SOLE DISTRIBUTORS FOR MOOREHEAD LABORATORIES, Inc.

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MURDOCK No. 55

2000 OHM SET.....$4.50
3000 OHM SET..... 5.50

That these Murdock No. 55 Sets have earned a nation-wide reputation for value, is due, not so much to the fact that they are, without question, the best low priced receivers obtainable anywhere, as it is to the recognized fact that they closely approximate in operation the sensitive performance of the most expensive sets.

The customary assurance of "Satisfaction or Money Back" affords the opportunity of proving the exceptional value of these 'phones at no risk to you.

Other instruments — MURDOCK MADE—of recognized merit at equally reasonable prices are illustrated in Bulletin 19B, a copy of which will be mailed on request.

WM. J. MURDOCK CO.
55 Carter St.
CHELSEA (BOSTON 50) MASS.
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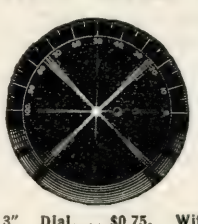
NEW DIAL INDICATOR



Fits standard ¼" Shaft. Made of same quality as our smaller dial. Black composition. White filled engraving. Bevelled edge.

3" Dial.....$0.75. With Knob.....$1.30 Postpaid
3⅞" Dial..... 1.00. With Knob..... 1.70 Postpaid
Moorhead Electron Relay New Style....$6.00
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Shipping weight 1 pound. Guaranteed. Licensed under Fleming and De Forest Patents.
Our new Catalog now ready, send 10c for it.
For sale at all RADISCO Agencies and by

A. H. CORWIN & CO.
4 West Park St., Dept.E-1, Newark, N. J.

Building "Your Own" Phonograph

(*Continued from page* 506)

ELECTRIC MOTOR DRIVES.

Fig. 4 shows two ways in which electric motor drives for phonographs can be used. The first method involves the connection of the electric motor to the gear train directly, with the use of the usual speed governor and regulator. The second method is a pure friction drive and this has been used to some extent commercially with very good success. The periferies of the friction pulleys may be covered with leather or they may be fiber pulleys, etc. Needless to say, the three-ball governor should be linked up with the driving train at some point, so as to keep the speed even and also to regulate the speed to the desired value.

Fig. 5 shows several stages in making your own turn-table. The standard turn-table is formed of prest steel about 3/64th inch thick, the edge being rolled over about 7/16th"; the top of the turn-table is covered with a piece of green or other colored felt glued to the metal, and at the exact center a brass or iron hub is riveted or screwed to the steel table. The hub is usually turned up from a piece of iron or brass in a lathe, so as to contain the pin at the center which passes thru the center of the record, while the hole at the bottom of the hub accommodates the driving shaft.

In standard phonographs no set screw is required as this hole in the base of the hub is tapered to accommodate the tapered shank on the upper end of the shaft. In home-made turn-tables, a set screw is invariably threaded thru the side of the hub so as to secure the turn-table rigidly to the shaft. The turn-table can be very well made of wood about one half inch thick and a standard diameter for turn-tables is 12 inches, altho if you have a small motor which will not rotate such a large turn-table a small one, say about 10 inches in diameter, may be used. Some makes of machines employ a cast iron or brass turn-table as shown at Fig. 5, the flat part of the table being cast with a large number of holes over its entire surface to reduce the weight.

For best results and in all first-class machines, the turn-table is *balanced*. This is performed very simply by mounting the table on a shaft which projects thru about four inches on the outer side. Two straight edges, preferably steel knife edges, are leveled up by means of a spirit level *in both directions*, and the turn-table with its shaft then placed on the knife edges. Holes are drilled in the turn-table or else solder placed on the rim, etc., until the table will rest in any position you place it without manifesting any turning effort. In other words, it must stand at any point you turn it to, without moving.

BUILDING THE SOUND CHAMBER.

When it comes to sound chambers there are many varieties of them, but as Prof. Dayton C. Miller, one of the foremost experts in the physics of musical sound in America, recently pointed out to the writer, —what we desire in a phonograph sound chamber (just now we mean the main amplifying sound chamber extending from the base of the tone arm, out to the grill), is an air-tight, solidly built chamber of standard size, so that the column of air within this chamber can be vibrated at any frequency desired, such as by musical vibrations impinged upon it by the phonograph reproducer or sound box.

Looking at Fig. 6, we have the simplest imaginable form of phonograph sound chamber which is not a very remarkable af-

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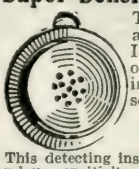

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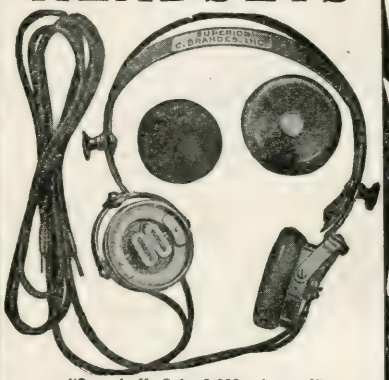

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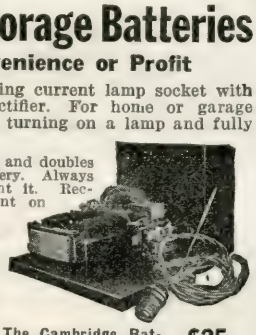

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fair it is true, but at least, the writer had the pleasure of building one just like this, out of four wide shingles. And it has served its purpose very well indeed, and in fact is still doing duty in his laboratory phonograph, used for carrying on telephonic and other tests. The reader will see at a glance just how this horn is built—the bottom is a flat shingle cut so as to taper toward the back; the two side shingles were cut straight along the bottom and taper from the outer top end down to within about 2½" at the back, where they run out so as to form a base by which they can be nailed with brads to the lower sides of the wooden throat member. The top shingle is cut tapered on both sides so as to just cover the top of the chamber tightly and rest firmly against the front of the throat chamber. The down-coming throat chamber is built of ⅜" wood (oak in the author's case).

All joints are planed smooth with a carpenter's plane and then glued and nailed with a few small brads. Do not be afraid to use a few brads in building the horn, altho many people will tell you there should not be a brad in it.

The main thing to be observed in building any sound chamber is as aforementioned, that it should be as nearly *air-tight* as possible from end to end, as Prof. Miller pointed out, since if there are any bad leaks or air holes in the chamber, there will be set up false notes or vibrations, or else a weakening of certain harmonics in the vibrations, at the points corresponding to the wave-length location of those air holes or leaks along the chamber.

Be careful therefore in drilling holes in the side of the chamber for the purpose of fitting sound valves and mufflers, etc. If you must do this, make the joint absolutely tight by using brass bushings tightly mounted in the woodwork and a tight-fitting shaft thru these bushings.

Fig. 7 shows a wooden sound chamber of the type illustrated at Fig. 6, mounted in a cabinet of the table type.

When it comes to building a first-class wooden sound chamber, Fig. 8 shows the "Daddy" of them all. All of the best phonographs have a chamber shaped something after this fashion and of course, it is evident at a glance, that this is an ideal form. The air waves can expand and amplify in this chamber, without having to break around any sharp corners, as the curve is a steady and smooth one. The amateur cabinet maker may find it quite difficult to build a chamber of this form, but it can be built by a cabinet maker or else you can have one made by a carpenter for a nominal sum. The wood used may be mahogany or some other fairly hard wood, about ⅜" to ½" thick, altho many commercial phonographs have sound chambers of this shape built of wood ¼" thick or less. Prof. Miller states that the horn should be built of sufficiently heavy wood, so as not to vibrate but to keep the column of air "rigid," so to speak, in order that only this column of air should be vibrated by the sound waves imprest upon it at its base, by the *reproducer*.

LARGE SOUND CHAMBERS.

When it comes to large sound chambers there are often cases where the reader will like to experiment with this, or one somewhat like it that will produce an extra large volume of sound. Figs. 9 and 10 show two examples of ultra-large sound or amplifier chambers which can be made of metal or wood—the writer prefers wood. The arrangement shown at Fig. 9 is a very clever one and it shows how one phonograph manufacturer has designed his cabinet so as to accommodate an amplifying chamber over four feet long.

(Part II will appear in the October number.)

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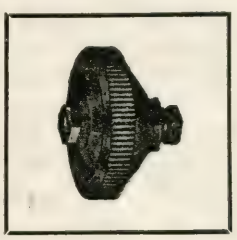

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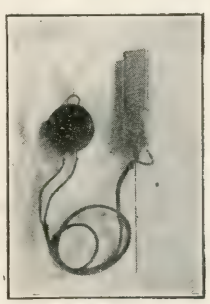

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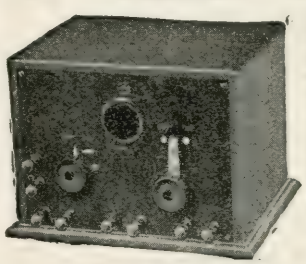

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Price $13.75, without tube or batteries. If your dealer can't supply you, order direct. Dealers: Write for proposition.

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Audion Poem Award

(Concluded)

(Continued from page 513)

And glittering like an opal rare,
As dainty as a butterfly,
You'll be the fairest of the fair,
A blazoned jewel in the sky.
And from old "Sparks" a tear will fall
While treading o'er the pearly path,
For one true pal—a crystal ball,
Ever faithful unto death.
Composed by
CLIFFORD P. MORRISON.

7TH HONORABLE MENTION.

Fighter since he learnt to toddle,
Soldier since he got his growth,
Knows the lightning and the static,
For he's fought and licked 'em both.
Not much figure in a dark room,
Not much hand at winning hearts,
Rotten ringer for old Mazda, but
Right there when something starts.
Just a bunch of wire and vacuum,
But you always feel a bit
That he'll get what he goes after
When he starts to hum and spit.

Jupiter found out all about him,
Set a price upon his head,
Then old Neptune's crafty warriors
Nearly kicked him out of bed.
Ocean waves and ocean currents
Tried to cut off his career,
But since first de Forest made him
It has never slipt a gear.
And the souls of all the Amateurs
Give one, big, heart-felt throb
At news that our fragile Audion
Never once threw up the job!
Composed by M. H. CREAGER.

8TH HONORABLE MENTION.
THE SONG OF THE AUDION.

'Oft-times when long I sit watching
That tube with its strange little light,
I fall in a fanciful musing,
Strange visions and dreams meet my sight.

The high-pitched sounds lose their meaning.
I know not what they say.
My eyes grow dim; my senses swim,
And I'm wafted far away.

The sounds change into music.
They sing me a wondrous lay,
And the tiny light before me
Seems the flame of a starry way.

Exultant the song is that's chanted,
Boastful its tone and its key.
Its theme is victory, conquest,
Success and triumphant glee.

It tells of the wonders of Persia,
Of splendors strange and grotesque.
It tells of Scheherezade's stories
And wondrous tales arabesque.

It tells me of strange old inventions,
Of long past glorious ages.
It tells of phenomenal wonders,
The deeds of great men and sages.

And here the song becomes louder.
Pride thrills in the notes of the lay.
For it tells of a far greater triumph
Of our own most glorious day.

Then at last the music grows fainter,
Stilled its victorious glee,
And in proof of the song that was sung me
I hear voices across the sea.
Composed by NASON KENNEY.

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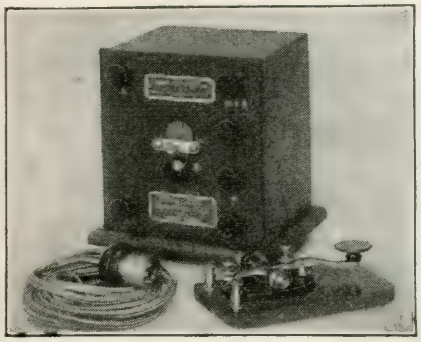

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9TH HONORABLE MENTION.
AVE, AUDION!

Trill on; trill on,
Sweet Warbler of the air!
From your vibrant, happy throat,
You bring to me Celestial Note,
On Waves Ethereal.
You sing of Verities Eternal;
Beyond the Dreams of Myth and Creed—
Back to the Dawn of Life's Young Day!
Trill on; trill on,
Sweet Warbler of the air,
At Morn, at Noon—thru dusky Night,
Sing, Sing to me;
And one, anew,
Thy Tomes of Truth and Light.

Shine on; shine on,
Oh, Thou Eternal Sun
Didst Thou not Shine ere Time begun,
Beguiling Sun?
No palsied hand ere stayed Thy course!
What puny hand would dare rob Thee
Of Thy Eternal Glories?
None, none! But hordes have worshipt Thee.
Thy Warmth, Thy Light—Effulgent Rays—
Have been the Glory of Unending Days!
Yea, ever and anon
Didst Thou Shine on,
And Sing—Thy Antiphon!
Hast Thou not been the Light
Which drave the darkness into Day?
Didst Thou not Light the Way,
And burn Thy Rays into the 'nighted brain
Of him whose goods were sterile afterthought?
Shine on; shine on,
Oh, Thou Eternal Sun!
And let this Music thru Thy Radiant Embers run;
Till Men and Minds shall know
That gods were not
Ere Thou didst Sing,
Thy Antiphon!

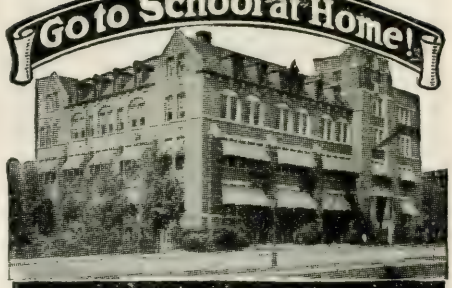
Flow on; flow on,
Sweet Rivulets and Babbling Brooks!
Flow on, thru your Sequestered Nooks.
Yea, there I fain would steal,
Into your Sodalities Eternal.
Yea, there to be your Seneschal,
That I might lend a list'ning ear,
To catch the strains purloined by you
From primal maid and happy swain.
Sang you not there
The Antiphon—
Romancing with the Audion—
As Sun, and Moon, and Stars looked on—
Sweet Rivulets and Babbling Brooks?
Pray, let me be your Seneschal
For one fleet moment.
Ah! Now I catch your Honest Laugh?
You bid me quaff? Enough!
So, Ripple on,
Sweet Rivulets and Babbling Brooks,
As Perfumed Sepal, bending low,
Catches the Breath of your onward flow.
Envy? No!
But, Hope that in your After-glow,
Your Ripples and your Dulcet Tones,
May e'er Inspire the Human Lyre,
Adown the Vistas of the Years to come,
As you roll on;
And sing, with Audion,
Your Antiphon!

Composed by S. TYSON KINSELL.

SEAPLANE FLIES BY RADIO COMPASS.

Guided entirely by radio compass signals, the naval seaplane F-5-L recently left Norfolk and flew 95 miles on a "bee line" to pick up the battleship Ohio at sea, with no knowledge at the time of taking the air of the vessel's location. The seaplane then navigated its return to Norfolk entirely by radio compass.

Navy Department officials, to whom the flight was reported, said it was the first time radio compass apparatus had been used to direct aircraft to a ship.



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The Airplane of the Future

By H. GERNSBACK

(*Continued from page* 485)

York in the morning and return to London on the same day.

As will be noted, the new machine offers hardly any resistance to the air whatsoever and not even a landing gear is exposed. The landing gear in this instance will imitate our birds in flight, which pull in their feet as they fly; this they do simply to cut down air resistance. One of our illustrations shows how the landing gear is pusht thru the bottom of the airplane when a landing is to be made. Otherwise the chassis is drawn within the shell of the airplane and is not at all exposed. A side view of the machine is given in one of our illustrations, as is another view of the machine as it appears in flight when looking toward it. From this view it will be seen that a rib-like bulge runs from nose to end of the machine, the under surface of both sides of the wings being curved, with the curve toward the ground, which is necessary in order to "catch" the air. If the under side of the machine was absolutely flat, there would be considerable air "slippage" and the air would not be caught anywhere as well. In the bottom view of the machine we also see a number of holes thru which the chassis or landing gear is lowered when the machine wishes to alight. Furthermore, on each side of the machine are a number of landing skids, on which the plane rests or slides when making a landing. These skids also retract within the wings of the airplane and are not visible while the machine is in flight, therefore they do not show in our illustration. The small circular holes in this illustration are glass portholes.

The entire envelope of this machine is made of magnesium, a metal 30% as light as aluminum. Indeed, this is the very metal that was used in Mr. Stout's machine. Magnesium is a brilliant white metal and is quite strong as compared to aluminum. The entire machine as a matter of fact can be readily built of this metal, which would give the giant airplane an extraordinary light weight considering its huge bulk. The thousand-foot machine which we show in our illustration can easily transport 1,000 to 1,500 people in addition to a large amount of freight.

The speed of the machine as aforesaid may be 500 miles or more. As a matter of fact, there is nothing to hinder us from making the speed even greater, and we will surely see in the future machines that fly at a speed of 1,000 miles or more. The only drawback to such speeds will be the difficulty in retarding the speed sufficiently in order to make a landing.

Take a machine that flies at the rate of 500 miles an hour; that means over 8 miles a minute! From this it will be seen that when the machine wishes to land it cannot do so instantaneously, but the pilot or captain must start to slow down from five to ten minutes *before* the landing is made. If this is the case, naturally a good deal of the speed or rather the distance covered by the machine will be sacrificed. Of course, the huge 100-foot propellers can and will be reversed in most cases, and this will be about the only way that the speed of the machine can be checked rapidly. Naturally this causes great strains not only upon the propellers but upon the airplane itself and is the one thing that must be contended with when we reach such high speeds.

The next thing is the actual landing of such an aerial monster weighing perhaps 5,000 tons or more. Even a tyro will understand that this task becomes a problem of vast magnitude.

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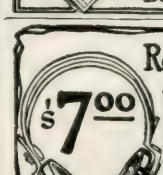

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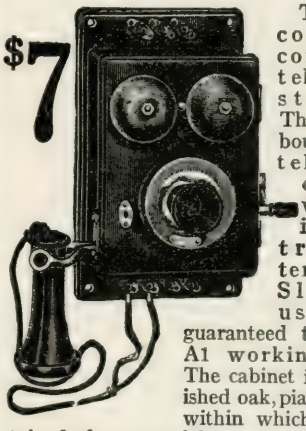

$7 This is a complete commercial telephone station. They were bought from telephone exchanges who put in Central battery types. Slightly used but guaranteed to be in A1 working order. The cabinet is of polished oak, piano finish, within which is contained the powerful magneto, the 300 Ohm polarized ringer, an induction coil. The magneto is exceptionally efficient, being of the two bar type with brass gear transmission. The extra sensitive microphone, mouthpiece and two gongs are mounted on the front of the cabinet, giving the entire instrument that desirable appearance of compactness and efficiency. Guaranteed to work over 20 miles. The telephone receiver is a double poled one, and has a hard rubber case. Seven binding posts are provided for connections.

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For example. A locomotive is always upon the ground and can easily retard its speed by slipping over the rails; the tremendous friction set up soon stops the train. A steamship is never out of the water, and being in so dense a medium can easily retard its speed by reversing its propellers. But the airplane on the other hand has two entirely different things to contend with. In the first place, it not only must reduce its speed from a high speed to practically nothing before it can make a landing, *but it also must make the transition from one medium to another,* namely, from the air, a very thin medium, to the ground, a very dense medium. When we come to do this with a 5,000-ton weight, it will be readily seen that this becomes a ticklish problem. Off-hand it would seem to be almost impossible to bring so huge a weight safely down to earth without special contrivances not yet invented. Luckily there is one element in landing such a huge machine which has perhaps occurred to few people, and the writer herewith desires to advance it with diffidence.

Due to the very large surface of the machine this makes the landing rather easy for the very simple reason that the machine acts as a parachute, unlike a dead weight that does not displace much air. If the machine is designed right, and if the center of gravity of the machine is correctly calculated, and if the curvatures of both of the undersides are correct, it should be possible to stop the propellers just before the machine reaches the ground. Then by quickly reversing the propellers the huge airplane would then descend not unlike a parachute. In other words, the air between the machine and the ground cannot get away fast enough without acting as a buffer on the airplane, which would therefore descend at a slow speed similar to a parachute.

Therefore, the bigger and larger we make such a flying machine the more safely will it be possible to land it. Of course, it goes without saying that the weight of the machine in proportion to its surface must not reach beyond a certain figure, for if the weight becomes too great gravitation will overcome the parachute effect and the huge craft will come down too quickly. This, however, is a problem for the engineer to work out.

Should it not be possible to land these huge air monsters as advanced above, then perhaps it may be found that it will be safer to "land" them on a sheet of water specially prepared for "landing" purposes. If the airplane of the future is equipt with retractable pontoons, then it would be a simple matter to make a landing on a small natural or artificial lake, which would thus constitute the "Air Port." Perhaps such a landing would be safer and preferable to a ground landing.

IF you should be called upon to-night to resent an improper remark about someone you love, could you play a man's part?

SUPPOSE a ruffian insults you, or worse still, passes a stinging remark about your mother or sweetheart. What will you do? The bully probably knows enough about boxing to give you a good beating. Prudence would tempt you to swallow the insult and slink away. But your pride won't let you do that—you're too much of a man—so to save yourself from disgrace you fight. And if you are like most men who know nothing about boxing, your opponent will give you a sound thrashing.

Or suppose you are waylaid on a deserted street. Unless you know how to overcome your opponent and escape, it is likely that your friends will find you lying unconscious.

Now how much longer are you going to take chances with your helplessness? The excuse that you are too old or too young to learn boxing, that you haven't the time or the money, doesn't hold good. We are teaching boxing to over 7,000 students —some of them old men, some of them boys, and we know from experience that after studying the Marshall Stillman System of Self Defense the majority of them are able to outbox stronger and heavier opponents.

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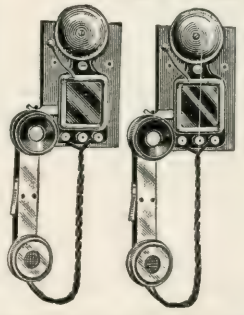

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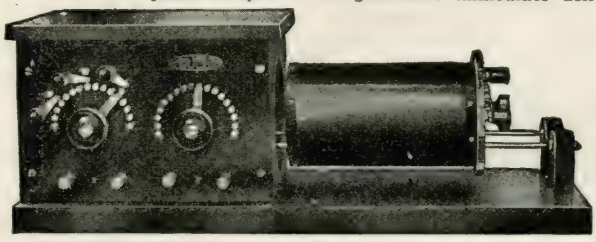

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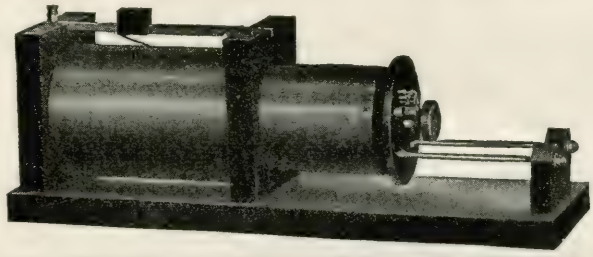

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How to Become a Professional Radio Man

By PIERRE H. BOUCHERON

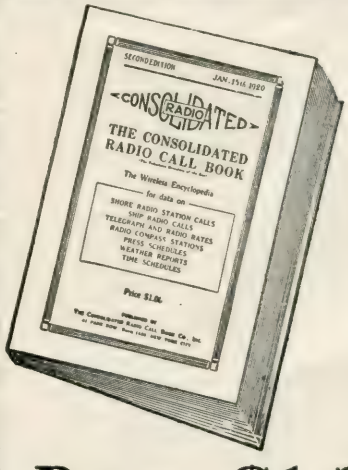
(*Continued from page* 515)

tors and it is hoped that few of this type are at large today. The new element of radio men who go to sea, nowadays, is for the most part above this sort of petty childishness and ill-breeding.

An operator should never fail to remember that altho he may be paid by the radio and not the steamship company, nevertheless, as soon as he has signed the *ship's articles,* he is as much a member of the crew as any sailor or fireman.

Moreover, if an operator is going to conduct his business on the *theory* that the ship's officers have nothing to say or do with him, it is very likely that he is not going to find the business of going to sea very agreeable. There are any amount of shell-backs who will do their level best to make things miserable for "Sparks".

Of course, as in all other walks of life, one will encounter small, mean, narrow-minded seafaring men who have little faith in humanity and still less in radio operators; who are ever-ready to find fault and to make it as uncomfortable as possible for everyone about them. Here I have nothing new or enlightening to offer on the subject of dealing with such persons, but in the long run one will find that even these monsters may be brought around quite nicely by the use of a little tact and patience; otherwise known as "kidding them along". This may even be accomplisht without the slightest loss of personal pride and self-respect, if one is willing to use a little common sense and give in to trifles.



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Consolidated Radio Call Book Co., Inc. **41 PARK ROW, NEW YORK CITY**

Many operators step aboard a ship for the first time with the belief that unless they show "some class" they will be made light of. This is wrong; there is never any need of bull-dozing or braggadocio when one would seek to accomplish their means. Rather give in to the little things than dispute anyone's word, particularly with the word of a man who has spent a lifetime at sea and ought to know what he is talking about. Wait until something of vital importance to your welfare or integrity is at stake; then it will be time enough to dispute the rights of an operator. After all, the big things are the ones that count.

THE CAPTAIN.

Too much stress cannot be laid upon the importance of respecting and obeying this important personage. Have ever before you the fact that once the ship is outside the three mile limit, the captain is King—he is the law; he is Emperor; he has the last word to say, in fact he is Lord of all he surveys. That little tub splashing about on that mighty expanse of water is under the supreme command of the Captain. Upon him rests the safety and sometimes the destiny of the several handfuls of men as well as women who chance to be on board. *What he says goes.* Usually he is a well-seasoned, conscientious and experienced sea-dog and he will not abuse the authority rested upon him by international mercantile marine laws. There is some sort of an unwritten rule of the sea that in a shipwreck the captain and the wireless operator are the last to leave the ship,—providing they are fortunate enough to reach that point. For that reason as well as many others which the prospective wireless operator will soon learn, it behooves you to keep on the right side of him. In fact the success of your work, the amount of pleasure you are able to secure on various voyages, as well as your personal comfort on board ship depends primarily upon how you impress the captain. Some skippers are often attacked with a reckless desire to curtail many most desirable privileges and liberties.

In a smaller measure the same may be said concerning other high officers of a ship such as the Chief Engineer, the Chief Mate, the Chief Purser, the Chief Steward (your stomach is concerned here) and their various assistants. The real radio operator will do his utmost to please these men and assist them in every way possible, wheether it be the securing of the time signals, daily news, baseball scores, weather reports, positions of other vessels, et cetera. *A word of warning:* don't resort to the time-honored practise of blaming it on "static" when you are unable or have failed to copy "press."

It is the boast of several radio operator friends of mine that they have made the New York to Havana, New York to Galveston, New York to Mexico, New York to Liverpool runs for several solid years without ever once missing the "daily press" items transmitted by the high power stations nightly and which both crew and passengers so eagerly gobble-up the next morning. It is true that there are nights when "static" interference is very severe and it is sometimes very difficult to copy two straight words in succession without missing the next three. Long practise in copying thru all manner of interference and their ability "to patch up" and make sense in broken-up sentences where many words have been "lost", no doubt comes to them in good stead. There is, therefore, no reason why you cannot do the same, once you have gotten into the "swing of it."

(Part II—will appear in the October number.)

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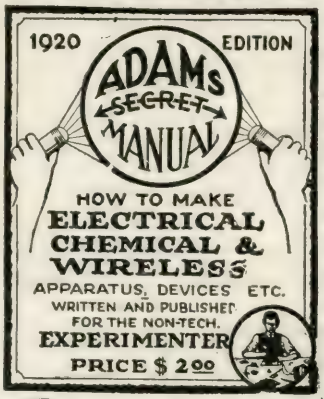

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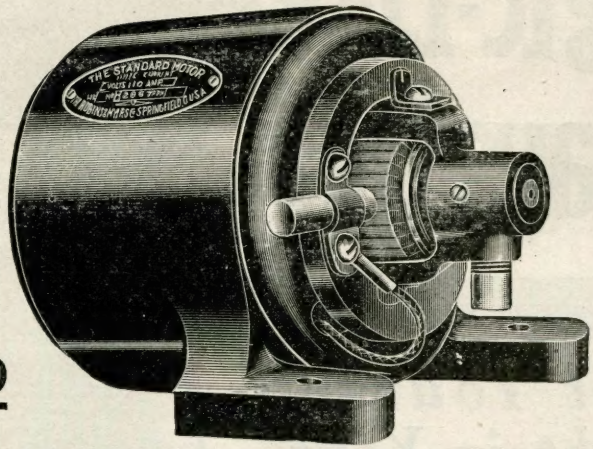

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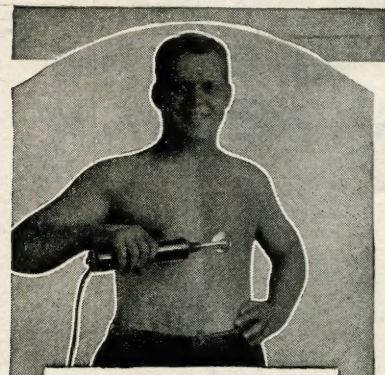

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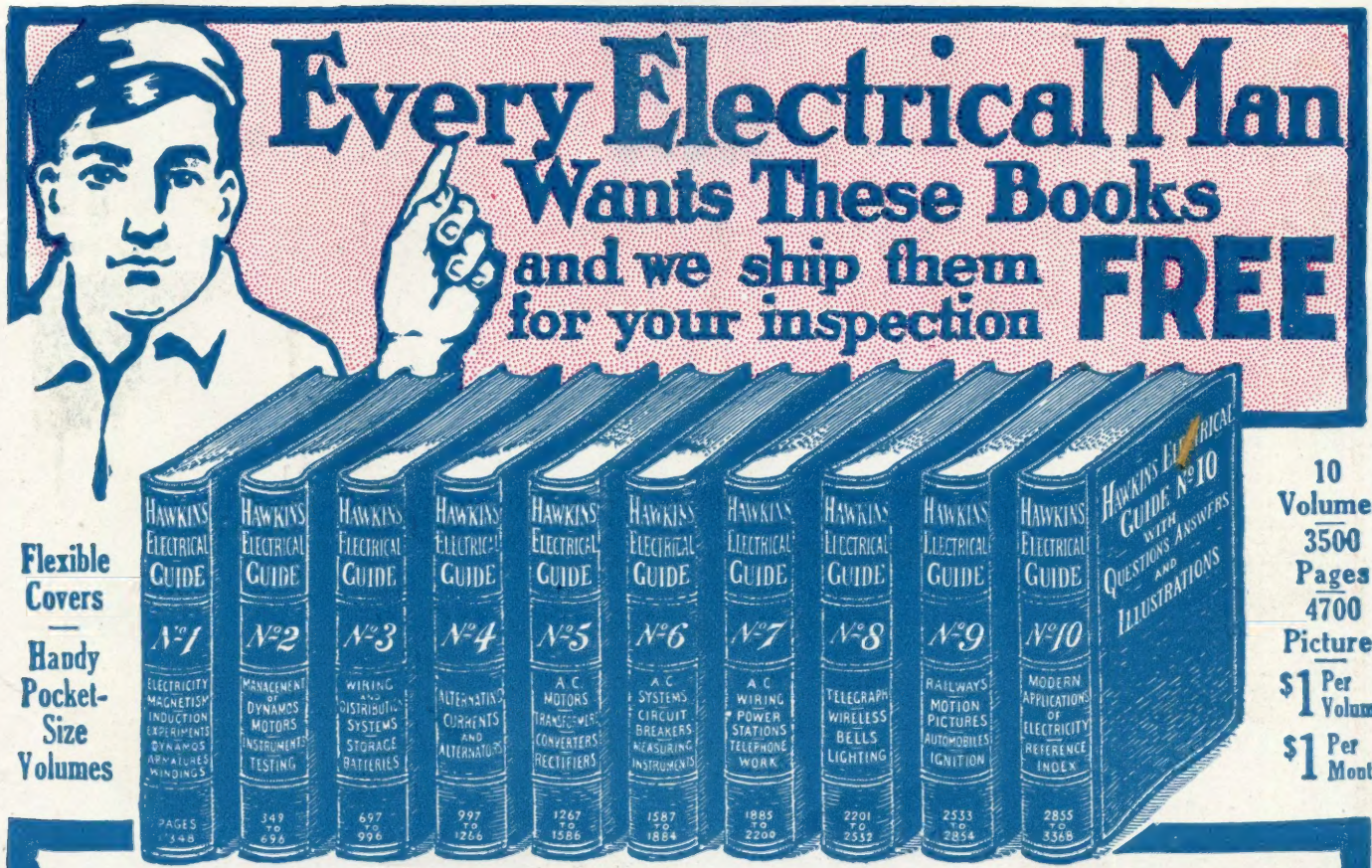
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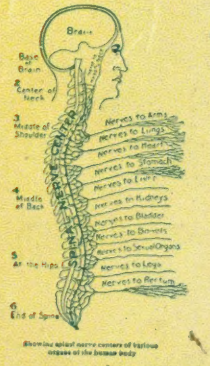

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Every beauty parlor uses a Violet Ray for hair, scalp and skin treatments. The secret of its success is that it brings about a healthy, natural circulation stimulating natural processes—and thus hair growth is promoted or the complexion given the attractive charm of rosy health; wrinkles and blemishes disappear. Health is the foundation of beauty as it is also the source of strength and success. Nothing has ever been discovered that would act both as a stimulant or as a sedative—as does the Violet Ray—with no harmful after effects—only permanent beneficial results. Find out just how these results are accomplished.

Thousands in Use

Many thousand people in all parts of the United States and the World are using *Renulife Generators*—and some of the most astonishing results—approaching the miraculous—have been reported to us. Thousands testify to their satisfactory use. We are confident that you or anyone seeking improved health or relief from ailments that have not yielded to other methods—will find it well worth while to investigate. We ship on a MOST LIBERAL TRIAL PLAN—giving you ample opportunity to determine what you could expect in your own case. Send for particulars.

Health *via* Violet Ray

That's the title of the Book—telling how the Violet Ray is really atomized electricity—sprayed into the body—penetrating every tissue and cells—carrying an invigorating and refreshing stimulation. Nothing else reaches in the same way the hidden cause, or removes the painful or annoying symptoms. Learn how you may now use this irresistible, revitalizing force for any ailment listed on coupon. Send for Book.

Inhaling Ozone

The Violet Ray produces Ozone, the greatest purifying element. Tissues absorb it from external application. An attachment is also provided for inhalation. Breathing Ozone is unequalled for Catarrh, Hay Fever, etc., and for Anemia.

RENULIFE ELECTRIC CO. 1209 Marquette Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

New York City 27 Warren St.
Chicago 123 West Madison St.
Netting Bldg. Windsor, Ont.

Sales Distributors

If you are in position to handle a territory in a big way as a local agency, write for proposition.

COUPON FOR BOOK and Special Information

RENULIFE ELECTRIC CO., 1209 Marquette Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

Please send without obligation, your book "Health" explaining Violet Ray treatments with Renulife Generators; also give full particulars as to its application for ailments checked below.

TREATS SUCCESSFULLY

..Abscesses	..Facial Neuralgia	..Obesity
..Anemia	..Falling Hair	..Pain in Abdomen and chest
..Asthma	..Female Complaints	..Paralysis
..Arteriosclerosis	..Goitre	..Piles
..Baldness	..Gout	..Pimples
..Blackheads	..Haemorrhoids	..Pyorrhea
..Brain Fag	..Hay Fever	..Rheumatism
..Bronchitis	..Infantile Paralysis	..Scars
..Bunions	..Insomnia	..Sciatica
..Bruises	..Lameness	..Skin Diseases
..Catarrh	..Locomotor Ataxia	..Sore Throat and Throat Diseases
..Colds	..Lumbago	..Sprains
..Chilblains	..Nervous Affections	..Toothache
..Dandruff	..Neuralgia	..Weak Eyes
..Deafness and Ear Diseases	..Neuritis	..Wrinkles
..Eczema		..Warts and Moles
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Made in Several Models—Most effective, Least Expensive—Violet Ray Outfits

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